

Levy conciliatory after rift with Shamir

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy Monday sought to patch up his quarrel with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, saying he was not "looking for any rift" with his old party rival. The statement followed a meeting Sunday intended to settle differences that grew out of Mr. Shamir's decision to head Israel's delegation to the Madrid peace talks, displacing Mr. Levy from that role. "I was not looking for any rift," Mr. Levy said. "The meeting was businesslike. It will have a continuation tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. I am guided by responsibility for this important, essential area of our life and I am convinced that he (Mr. Shamir) is too." After Mr. Shamir brushed Mr. Levy aside as head of the delegation to last week's peace conference, Mr. Levy refused to even travel to Madrid. Mr. Shamir included four foreign ministry officials in the 14-member team, but none was given a major role. On Friday, the ministry's acting director-general, Yosef Hadas, left abruptly, saying Mr. Shamir showed "contempt" for his ministry. But Monday, Mr. Levy denied suggestions that he ordered Mr. Hadas to return and added: "I hope this cloud will pass and there will be no more harm to the foreign ministry."

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Europeans reaffirm support for Jordan

BRUSSELS (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Monday discussed with his British, German, Italian and French counterparts the latest developments in the peace process and Jordan's relations with the European countries. The European ministers voiced their countries' appreciation of Jordan's constructive role in the region and affirmed the need to support the Kingdom in its endeavours to deal with the economic situation it is going through. The meeting was attended by Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and Jordan's Ambassador in Brussels Talal Sar'an Al Hassan. Jordan and the European Community (EC) Commission were due to meet late Monday to discuss enhancing cooperation. Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh left Amman for Brussels Monday to join Dr. Abu Jaber and Dr. Fariz at the talks.

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Jordan: Palestinian file opened in front of the world

Masri: Arabs aware of pitfalls, will not allow differences in approach to exceed certain limits
Premier discloses consultations with parliamentary blocs, says 'results will be seen in a few days'

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab delegations which have opened peace talks with Israel are aware of the possible pitfalls and will not allow the conflict with Israel to be turned into a conflict among Arabs themselves as a result of unilateral actions, Prime Minister Taher Masri said Monday.

"It is not required that we should all move at the same speed but we cannot be divided or make unilateral agreements," the prime minister said.

"There is no written commitment on those points but a binding political and moral one," Mr. Masri said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The first phase of the Middle East peace conference has ended mostly in favour of the Palestinians and the differences in

approach adopted by the Arab delegations to bilateral talks with Israel were procedural and not of substance, Mr. Masri said.

"...The Palestinian file has been opened in front of the world," Mr. Masri said. "The Palestinian performance was very good and so was the performance of the Jordanian delegation. In view of the internationally unaccepted positions of (Israel), there appears to be a support for the Arab view and in particular the Palestinian view," the prime minister told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides and "dealings in bilateral issues, whether Palestinian-Israeli or Jordanian-Israeli, will continue and will grow continuously," the prime minister added.

In the broad-ranging interview, the prime minister revealed that

he had launched consultations with various parliamentary blocs in an effort to reconcile before the reconvening of the regular session of Parliament in December.

"It is premature to talk about the results of such contacts but certainly they are intended to prepare for the next ordinary session of Parliament...what these contacts will result will come out in the coming few days," Mr. Masri said.

He added his primary aim behind the reconciliatory moves was to avert a crisis at this crucial juncture in Jordan's history.

On the economic front, Mr. Masri said Jordan was straining under the burden of foreign debts and had devised a series of measures aimed at addressing the problems.

Jordan is trying to further reschedule its foreign debt repay-

ments and will also redirect subsidy to the more needy and away from commercialisation.

Following is a transcript of the interview with Mr. Masri:

Q: How would you assess the Madrid phase, if we can call the opening ceremony and the ensuing bilateral talks as such?

A: It is difficult to give an accurate assessment of the results of the meetings in Madrid and the talks clarified its opening position and its aims from the conference.

There are obvious differences in positions (between the Arabs and the Israelis) but we cannot ignore that the Madrid meetings and the extensive media coverage as well as the great interest have reopened the Palestinian file in front of the world. The performance of the Palestinian delegation

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Chief Palestinian delegate Haidar Abdel Shafi (left) shakes hand with his Israeli counterpart Eytan Rubenstein after talks in Madrid Sunday. Between them is Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, head of the Jordanian team.

Jordan satisfied with Madrid talks, rejects Israeli contention over 242

Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan is satisfied with the course of the Middle East peace conference so far as well as the procedures of bilateral talks with Israel in the second phase of the conference which opened in Madrid last Wednesday; it is also gratified that the Palestinian identity has been recognised by the international community, the chief Jordanian delegate to the peace talks said Monday.

Abdul Salam Majali, who led the Jordanian side in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which met with an Israeli team Sunday in the first round of bilateral talks, also reiterated Jordan's rejection of Israel's interpretation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which calls on the Jewish state to withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied in

the 1967 war in return for secure borders and Arab recognition.

"The only legal interpretation of 242 is that it applies to all the occupied territories not one part of it," Dr. Majali told a news conference in the Spanish capital. "The principle of the inalienability of the acquisition of land by war (is) embedded in the U.N. charter. This principle was clearly stated in Resolution 242, but selectively omitted yesterday by the Israeli spokesman."

"All drafters of 242 have agreed that it applies to all fronts and not only to the Egyptian front as (the Israeli spokesman) claimed," Dr. Majali said.

Israel contends that it complied with Resolution 242 when it returned occupied Egyptian territories to Egypt under their separate peace treaty signed in 1979 and it is not bound to return any

other occupied territory — the West Bank, including Arab East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union — co-sponsors of the Madrid peace conference — have reaffirmed that the basis for Arab-Israeli negotiations is Resolution 242.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Dr. Majali said the Arab-Israeli bilateral and multilateral talks would take place on two parallel tracks rather than two phases of a process.

"The bilateral and multilateral talks will be held simultaneously," Dr. Majali said. "Maybe the bilateral negotiations will be held once again after two weeks. The multilateral talks, which discuss issues of concern to the region as a whole, will start after

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U.S. holds the key to venue dispute

Special from Madrid

WHERE AND WHEN would the next round of bilateral talks between the Arabs and the Israelis be held?

This question no more bewilders observers here. The answer is with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, they say.

Before leaving Madrid, Mr. Baker met with the heads of all delegations to the Middle East peace conference. According to sources at the meeting, the heads of the delegations told Mr. Baker they did not agree on the venue of the next round. The Israelis told the secretary they wanted the talks held in the Middle East; the Arabs said they preferred Madrid.

Mr. Baker reportedly told the heads of the delegations that the venue and timing were no problem. He said he would discuss it with the Soviets and together they would propose a place and time. He asked them if they wanted the talks soon and they all said they did.

Some of them said within 10 days; some within two weeks and others said before the end of this month. At that Mr. Baker said he will be in contact with them on the issue.

Observers and analysts in Madrid believe the talks will be held in Madrid between Nov. 20-25. They say that all differences over the place and the timing were anticipated by the U.S. They assert that the U.S. has a complete perception of the parameters of a final settlement and that all this shown in Madrid was intended to break the ice and remove the historical and psychological walls between the Arabs and Israelis.

They cite the preparations for the conference, protocols, security and arrangement, all of which were made by the Americans, as indication that the U.S. had for long been preparing for the "show."

The observers are of the consensus that the American administration is very serious in the quest for peace in the Middle East. They say that Mr. Baker is extremely enthusiastic to put an end to the conflict. They say the U.S. wants stability in the region as part of its perception of a new world order.

Syria, Israel agree to meet again

MADRID (Agencies) — Israel and Syria concluded a historic round of direct talks on a divisive note Monday, but agreed to meet again. Hours earlier, Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian team reported progress toward serious negotiations.

In a milestone meeting, Syria overcame its hesitations and met for five hours with Israel late Sunday and early Monday. But both sides accused the other of intransigence.

Israel said Syria would not budge from its insistence on a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa told a news conference Monday the Israelis

had been intransigent, speaking "empty words about peace" and refusing to discuss territorial concessions. He said the Israelis did all they could "to make the peace conference and the talks a waste of time."

"The Israelis as a people desire peace," Mr. Sharaa said. "But the government is a special case. It is more hawkish, more intransigent than its people."

Syria's chief negotiator, Muzaaf Alaf, complained that Israel refused to discuss the possibility of territorial concessions.

"Although we are not at all satisfied, we will continue talking with them," he said, adding that no time or place had been set. Lebanon's delegation met

separately with Israeli counterparts under the second phase of the historic peace talks, which opened last week. Lebanon, like Syria, refused to agree on a mechanism for direct contacts and indicated that bilateral talks might not resume for a few months, Israeli officials said.

According to the Israelis, Syria insisted that contacts over the short term be made through U.S. intermediaries.

The Israeli delegation, which was to leave Madrid Monday afternoon, agreed to a U.S. request to allow complete freedom of movement in Israeli-controlled territory for members of the Palestinian negotiating team, Israeli officials said.

Bush: Hopes bright after Madrid

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

(Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush said Monday he was encouraged by historic Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid that have "broken new ground," but cautioned that the process has a long way to go.

"The talks are progressing well. These meetings have broken new ground, in effect, establishing a new base line for considering Middle East problems," Mr. Bush said aboard the presidential jet as he headed to California for the dedication of the Ronald Reagan presidential library.

"We have a long way to go and interruptions will probably occur, but hopes are bright," Mr. Bush said.

The Bush comments, providing to reporters by White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, came a day after Israel conducted separate unprecedented direct bilateral talks with delegations from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians.

Those talks followed the ceremonial opening of the peace conference in the Spanish capital which also included representatives of Egypt and other Arab observers.

Secretary of State James Baker, whose eight months of diplomacy helped convene the talks sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union, flew back from Madrid overnight and joined Mr. Bush on Air Force One for the California trip.

Mr. Fitzwater quoted Mr. Baker as saying: "We're encouraged that the talks took place at all. They were businesslike and carried off in a constructive atmosphere."

"No one walked out in the conference or the bilateral. There is a sense of engagement now that

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Israel builds new Golan settlement

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel, underlining its refusal to return the occupied Golan Heights to Syria, went ahead Monday with plans to inaugurate a new settlement for Soviet immigrants on the plateau.

The afternoon ceremony was only a few hours after the first direct peace talks between Israelis and Syrians ended in Madrid with both sides reporting no progress.

Three hardline ministers in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet said they would attend the official start of the new settlement of Kela.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, Agriculture Minister Rafael

Eitan and Science Minister Yubal Neeman had all openly opposed Israel's decision to attend the U.S.-brokered Madrid peace conference.

"Our message is still like it was before," Dedi Gofar, spokesman for the Jewish settlers' council on the Golan, told Reuters. "We are going to be here forever, and it does not matter what happens in Madrid."

The settlers and cabinet ministers derided the U.S. view that moving Israelis and immigrants to the occupied territories is an obstacle to peace. U.S. policy urges Israel to trade occupied territory for peace.

"Every new settlement, every

Jew... enlarge our grip (on the land)," said Mr. Neeman, whose Tebiya Party has threatened to withdraw from the government over the Madrid talks.

Israel occupied the strategic Golan in the 1967 war and "annexed" it in 1981. Some 12,000 Jewish settlers, including 1,000 Soviets, have moved to the heights.

Mr. Sharon, a settlement champion who greeted 36 Kela settlers and some 200 guests in a speech, blasted the Madrid peace conference and Israel's agreement to participate.

Under Mr. Sharon, 1,500 housing units have been started on the Golan this year.

Palestinians welcome direct talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Many Palestinians in the occupied territories, hoping for freedom from Israeli rule, Monday welcomed their first direct peace talks with the Jewish state as a step in the right direction.

But Muslim fundamentalists and Marxists in the occupied territories called for Palestinians to withdraw from the peace talks, denouncing those taking part as traitors.

"The wheel of peace has started and I think it won't stop," said Khaled Al Qidrah, former deputy head of the Palestinian Lawyers' Union in the occupied Gaza Strip. "Maybe it will stall at times, but I think it will continue."

Nabhan Khraisheh, an editor

of the Al Fajr newspaper in Arab East Jerusalem, said the Palestinians had decided to enter the peace process by participating in the Madrid peace conference.

"The train has started up and it will follow the course set by the United States," he told Reuters. "The bilateral talks are another step forward in the peace process."

Israeli negotiators met a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in Madrid Sunday in a first direct encounter focused on the venue and procedures of future negotiations.

Palestinian and Jordanian delegates described the talks as good, but declined to disclose details. Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, eager for peace after four years of revolt against

Israeli occupation, have come out strongly in favour of the Madrid conference.

At Jenin in the West Bank, some 3,000 people turned out for a rally Monday in support of Palestinian participation in peace talks.

There were two demonstrations in support of the talks in the West Bank city of Nablus, a flash point of Palestinian nationalism during the uprising.

But hundreds of Palestinian Muslim fundamentalists and Marxists who opposed the talks marched in Nablus' old city earlier, demanding Palestinian delegates withdraw from negotiations.

The militant Islamic Jihad organisation issued a strongly-

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Arafat positive on future of peace talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) —

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday the Middle East peace conference had been very positive so far and he expected it would continue smoothly with the help of the United States and Secretary of State James Baker.

Interviewed on NBC Television from PLO headquarters in Tunis, Mr. Arafat reiterated his confidence in the delegation representing the Palestinians and their preference that further bilateral talks with Israel take place in Washington, Moscow or an Arab capital.

"We consider it has been going in a very positive way till now. We hope this will continue at the next stage," he said.

The historic meeting last week in Madrid, attended by Israel and Arab delegations including Jordanian-Palestinian one, was the first time Israel had held formal peace talks with Arabs from the occupied territories.

They failed to agree on a location for further talks, but Haneen Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said in Madrid that Palestinians and their Jordanian co-delegates hoped to meet the Israelis again shortly.

Asked about the future of the talks, Mr. Arafat said, "I am sure that it will go on smoothly because we are coordinating with our Arab brothers... with the whole international community."

"I hope that (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir will follow up in the same line."

Mr. Arafat said he relied on the United States to keep the talks on track.

"I am sure that we have an honest broker. Mr. Baker will find a solution at the end so that we would continue in this peace process," he said.

The PLO leader expressed confidence that the agreement would include a guarantee of peace for Israel in exchange for a return of the occupied territories and a withdrawal of Israeli military forces from the occupied territories.

"We are not asking for the moon," Mr. Arafat said.

"As we have declared many times, we are ready to offer many guarantees, including the supervision of the co-chairmen of the multinational forces, even the American forces, to replace the Israeli military forces," he said.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) called Monday for the suspension of the Madrid peace talks because of "the danger of a new Camp David."

"We demand an amendment of the course of the talks so they would include the implementation of U.S. Resolutions 242 and 338, especially resolutions related to ending the building of settlements," the DFLP said in a statement.

The Damascus-based group, led by Nayef Hawatmeh, is the third-largest faction in the PLO.

Shamir 'proud' of his terrorist past

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, publicly called a terrorist by Syria, said Monday he was proud of everything he did while leading the most extreme Jewish group fighting in Palestine of the 1940s.

"I have to answer him?" Mr. Shamir asked reporters seeking his response to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, who last Friday waved a 44-year-old British wanted-poster of the guerrilla commander at the Madrid peace conference.

"I have always said, I always say — I am proud of everything I have done in my past," the 76-year-old prime minister said. "I do not disown a single step."

Mr. Shamir was in the triumvirate that led the terror group Lohamei Herut — better known to the world as the Stern Gang — in its campaign to drive Britain from Palestine, which it administered under U.N. mandate.

The Stern Gang, whose acts shocked even other Jewish underground groups, carried out the 1944 assassination of Lord Moyne, British minister of state for the Middle East, and the gunning down in 1948 of Swedish Count Bernadotte, the United Nations peace mediator.

Mr. Shamir, however, sidestepped questioning on any role he might have had in the assassination in Jerusalem of Count Bernadotte, which led the government of the new state of Israel finally to suppress his movement.

"I did not tell you anything other than this — that I am proud

of what I have done and I do not owe an accounting to anyone, and certainly not Mr. Sharaa," said Mr. Shamir, who was in charge of Stern Gang operations.

Mr. Shamir had joined the Irgun, another Jewish terror group, soon after arriving in Palestine from Poland in 1935.

The Irgun split in 1940 over a proposed ceasefire with Britain, which was fighting Germany. Mr. Shamir went with the faction headed by Abraham Stern.

The group conducted assassinations and bombings against police stations, trains and government installations. In 1947, it mailed bombs to British politicians outside Palestine.

The Stern Gang had a key role in a 1948 attack on the village of Deir Yassin near Jerusalem, where hundreds of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, were cut down by gunfire.

The Syrian attack on Mr. Shamir came after Mr. Shamir himself assailed Syria, describing it as "one of the most tyrannical regimes" in the world.

The Syrian attack did not produce much reaction in Israel since the outline of the prime minister's history, although details are shrouded in the same secrecy as his decade as an Israeli spy starting in 1955, is known to most Israelis.

Mr. Shamir said Monday that the willingness of Palestinians and Jordanians to talk peace showed a "spirit" with Syria that was favourable for Israel.

Tax hiked on some items, customs duty cut on others

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Monday announced a set of adjustments on prices of imported commodities and said that customs duty and consumer taxes will be increased on a number of commodities categorised as non-essential.

According to the announcement, there will be a reduction of customs duty on 205 types of imported products by an average of nearly 10 per cent. The re-

duction covered certain types of vegetables and fruits, processed food commodities, shoes, schoolbooks, auto spare parts and other products classified as essential.

The statement also announced increases in consumer tax on liquor, chandeliers, red bricks, cosmetics, wallpaper and other non-essential and luxury products. The statement said there will be an increase in

the prices of cigarettes at the rate of 50 fils per packet of 20 cigarettes.

Commenting on the adjustments and increases, which take immediate effect, acting Minister of Finance Abdul Karim Al Kabari pointed out that the government has reduced customs duty on a large number of essential goods while it hiked taxes and customs duty on luxury and non-essential products.

The 1992 budget, the minister added, will contain the largest ever allocation for social services in the country's history.

The price increases of cigarettes, the minister said, was deemed necessary to increase the treasury's income from local revenues so as to cope with the requirements of expanded social services, which mainly benefit limited-income groups.

The 1992 budget, the minister added, will contain the largest ever allocation for social services in the country's history.

France-Iran feud to be settled next month

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and France will sign a final agreement next month settling a financial dispute that has dogged relations since Tehran's 1979 Islamic revolution, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Monday.

Mamoud Vaezi, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, told the Tehran newspaper Jomhuri Islami the agreement would be followed by a protocol for political, economic and cultural cooperation.

The two countries have spent two years negotiating a solution to the dispute, stemming from a \$1 billion loan which the late Shah of Iran made to the French atomic energy commission in 1974.

Mr. Vaezi, who has just returned from talks in Paris, said the agreement would be signed during a visit to Tehran by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. The IRNA report did not give a precise date.

France repaid a total of \$346 million by 1988. In addition to the balance, Tehran has claimed a further \$1 billion in interest.

Paris has claimed a similar sum to compensate for other contracts cancelled after 1979. A Swiss court last month ordered Iran to pay \$716 million damages to three French firms, in damages.

Mr. Vaezi said that under the

agreement Iran's shares in France's Eurodif, a uranium enrichment consortium, would be preserved.

He added that more than half the money France owed Iran would be paid within 48 hours of the agreement being signed and the balance in three instalments. He did not give any figures.

The Shah's loan was destined for Eurodif, which was supposed to supply fuel for a nuclear plant he wanted to build. The project was cancelled after the Shah was toppled.

Paris severed relations with Tehran in 1987 over an Iranian embassy official's suspected implication in a wave of Middle East bomb attacks in the French capital.

Ties were renewed the following year after the last of three French hostages held by the pro-Iranian groups were freed in Lebanon.

Relations were strained again after a French judge ordered the arrest of an Iranian government official suspected of a role in the murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar near Paris in August.

Mr. Vaezi said the final agreement would remove all bottlenecks to the expansion of bilateral ties.



Farouq Al Sharaa

Syria appeared to relish tough role in Madrid

MADRID (AP) — With the harshest rhetoric and the most dogged bargaining tactics, Syria appeared to relish its role as Israel's toughest adversary at the Middle East peace conference.

From retaliating to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's attack by calling him a terrorist to arguing over when and where to start the first bilateral talks, the Syrian delegation attracted attention and plenty of Israeli wrath.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia persuaded the Syrians to proceed with the peace process but fear that they have handed the Israelis an advantage by their obstinacy.

"The Syrians have become tainted in a negative way in the eyes of the West because of this position, but do not forget they are also being considered as positive in the eyes of the Arabs," Mr. Tahseen said by telephone from Cairo.

The joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation unnecessary clashes and were the first to sit down for bilateral talks with the Israelis on Sunday.

Throughout various disputes, the Syrians pointed to the Israelis as the real obstacle.

"We have come here for peace. We shall continue to work for peace out of our faith in this peace," Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa told the conference. "However, Israel would be gravely mistaken were it to interpret this Arab response as a licence for it to perpetuate its intransigent stands within the conference or any of its committees."

Syria's stance extended even to news conferences, where Mr. Sharaa refused to answer questions from Israeli journalists.

Since Egypt broke ranks with the Arabs in 1979 and signed the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Syria has been at the forefront of the Arab drive to liberate the occupied lands.

It was one of the last Arab countries to restore diplomatic ties with Egypt, in 1989. When the United States launched its efforts in March which culminated in this peace conference, Damascus was the last holdout.

Before coming to Madrid, Arab delegates met in Damascus and agreed to the Syrian demand that they adopt a united position and that no one would go ahead with a unilateral peace treaty as Egypt did.

That led to the last obstacle before Syria finally sat down with Israel on Sunday night — a dispute about the location. As a gesture of solidarity with the other Arab contingents, the Syrians insisted that their separate meetings with Israel should all be in the same place, although at different times.

Baker pays tribute to Jordanian-Palestinian stand

MADRID (AP) — Here are excerpts of the news conference by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Sunday at the Middle East peace conference:

X X X X

The Madrid conference was a beginning. I think it was a good beginning. Today the parties have taken another critical step, beginning direct, bilateral negotiations between Israel and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Israel and Lebanon and Israel and Syria.

There have been and, as I have said before, there will be obstacles in this process to be overcome, but they have not deterred us until now and they do not, in my view, diminish the importance of what has happened this week.

X X X X

The major issue that we had to work over the weekend was where to hold the bilateral negotiations. This is still an open question, and it is one that will need to be resolved as the negotiations proceed.

The United States and the Soviet Union express the hope that the parties themselves will continue to negotiate in order to reach an understanding.

The United States and the Soviet Union intend to maintain our position that bilateral negotiations should be face-to-face and take place separately between an Israeli delegation and each of the other delegations.

X X X X

I want to take special note of the steadfast commitment of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation

to beginning bilateral negotiations, and I want to express appreciation to all those who have gone the extra mile to make these opening meetings possible today, particularly the government of Israel.

From the initial reports I have received from the delegations themselves, I am especially pleased with the quality of the first negotiating session between the Israeli and joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations. As they told me and as their public statement made clear, they surely intend to proceed in a serious and constructive fashion and that gives us reason to believe that we really are entering a new phase in the Middle East.

X X X X

In terms of a start I have to tell you that I was very pleasantly surprised by the fact that they met as long as they did, in fact that it was two sessions and generally with respect to the reports that I received.

I regret the fact that I have not been able to receive reports from the other delegations... I have to tell you that I think that a lot of what the Palestinian representatives had to say at the conference was well received in many places around the world. Mr. Baker told reporters before heading home.

X X X X

We intend to stay fully engaged, as fully engaged as we can and for as long as we think the parties are serious about peace. And for the moment I think they are serious.

Conference organisers keep careful watch for offensive details

MADRID (AP) — Organisers of the Middle East peace conference combed negotiating rooms for offensive images and even colours that might offend the participants, removing a tapestry that showed a Spanish king standing on the head of a Muslim warrior.

"We wanted to make sure that there were no flags or emblems, or even colours, that might be taken badly by the parties," said an American involved in organising the conference.

The U.S., Soviet and Spanish co-sponsors even debated the colour of the table cloth — off-white — to make sure it neither favoured nor offended the Israelis or Arabs.

They removed an offensive tapestry from one room, and carefully checked another in the main hall and found that although it showed the Greek god Bacchus, it did not depict his favourite beverage, wine, which might offend testotalling Muslims.

The catering service for the press centre was not so careful, serving ham to Jews and Muslims, both of whom shun pork.

Pork was the main component in most of the estimated 123,000 sandwiches gobbled over five days by journalists, organisers and security workers who roamed through the press centre at Madrid's trade fair hall, said Vincente Clemente, a spokesman for the Riesgo Cotel catering service.

For breakfast, they daily ate 3,500 croissants and other rolls, and during the long days and nights, gizzled 6,000 litres of coffee and 7,000 cans of soda.

After the opening speech last Wednesday by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, his companions kept a low profile. So low that few people noticed when Soviet Foreign Minister Boris

Palestinians seeking fresh image

MADRID (AP) — Life has changed dramatically for Saeb Erekat, one of the Palestinian negotiators who argued the case for his people in the direct talks with Israel.

"We told our story. No people in this century were as misinformed about and discriminated against as the Palestinians," he told reporters as the historic Madrid conference drew to a close.

The Palestinians sat face-to-face with the Israelis Sunday, and a statement issued by the Israelis and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian team called the talks "businesslike."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker hailed the Palestinian approach.

"I have to tell you that I think that a lot of what the Palestinian representatives had to say at the conference was well received in many places around the world," Mr. Baker told reporters before heading home.

The conciliatory tone of the professors and physicians who made up most of the Palestinian delegation could change the image of a people whom the Israelis have blamed for much of the violence in the region.

In his opening speech, the head of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, dropped demands for immediate statehood and said Palestinians would agree to a transitional period of self-rule.

The Palestinians "managed to give a human face to the Arab position, refuting the Israeli extremism of (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir..." said a former Egyptian government spokesman. "They were very successful."

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi seemed elated at her farewell news conference Sunday, thanking the media for "relaying our narrative to the rest of the world and for allowing us to speak out for ourselves, actually, for the first time in our history."

The Palestinians' progress was not perfect. The Israelis objected to a statement by Dr. Erekat before the conference that he represented the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and they were put off by the black-and-white checked keffiyeh scarf he wore at the opening of the conference Wednesday.

Although Dr. Erekat did not take part in the Sunday session, which was devoted to discussing the time, place and agenda of subsequent meetings, he said he would be back on the team when the Palestinians discuss substance with the Israelis.

The progress made in Madrid, said Dr. Erekat, "was a very small step, a centimetre in a trip of 100 kilometres. But at the same time, it is a very, very important step."

"We are sitting and we are addressing each other. That's important," he said.

"When I was packing my luggage in Jericho, I looked at my wife and twin daughters and said to them, the only thing I am afraid of is that I will never be the same person," Dr. Erekat said.

The negotiations will demand most of his time, he said, and will keep him away from his job as professor of economics at Al Najah University in the occupied West Bank.

But some things are not changing. But some things are not changing fast enough for Erekat.

"I can't describe how it feels to live under occupation. I can't explain how it feels to live in constant fear," he said.

Former Afghan king stabbed in Rome

ROME (AP) — A man posing as a journalist repeatedly stabbed the former king of Afghanistan at his home in Rome Monday, police said.

Mohammad Zahir Shah, 77, suffered multiple wounds, but the hospital where he was being treated said he was out of danger, according to the press office of the carabinieri, Italy's paramilitary police.

The former king has been living in exile in Rome since he was overthrown in 1973 while in Italy for medical treatment. It has frequently been suggested that he played a role in a transitional Afghan government that may one day end his nation's long civil war.

A carabinieri spokesman said the assailant, identified as Jos Santo Paolo de Almeida of Portugal, was arrested immediately.

It was not immediately known why he attacked the exiled former king.

Afghanistan President Najibullah has repeatedly offered the former monarch a position in his government, but the offers were refused. Zahir Shah's name has surfaced in connection with a peace settlement, possibly to head a transitional government.

Palestinian delegate defies Israelis with his keffiyeh

MADRID (AP) — For Saeb Erekat, a black-and-white checked keffiyeh around his neck was a defiant symbol of the Palestinian nation he wants to see established.

For the Israelis, who already had misgivings about his participation in the Middle East peace conference because of his allegiance to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), it was like waving a red flag.

A bearded professor of political science from the West Bank, Mr. Erekat looks much older than his 36 years. He is one of the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation's more hardline members.

However, he is not as extreme as some Palestinians who reject the peace process and threaten to blow it up.

He had caused a furor even before the conference began when he said the PLO chosen the PLO.

Israeli officials even hinted they might consider pulling out of the conference if Mr. Erekat remained. To smooth things over, Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini issued a statement complaining about unauthorised comments by Palestinian delegates.

The latest Erekat-inspired stir was provoked by his dress.

"I am really surprised that this keffiyeh that is a symbol of peace and love and Palestinian culture provokes (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir," Mr. Erekat said.

"This keffiyeh is worn all over the occupied Palestinian land... a symbol of my nation, and if this provokes them, they really need a lot of reconsideration and rethinking."

Now he says the Israelis do not



Mohammad Zahir Shah

that could pave the way for elections.

The former monarch and his family, stripped of their Afghan citizenship after the communist revolution of April 1978, live in a villa outside Rome. Afghanistan's government restored their citizenship in August.

Zahir Shah was overthrown by his cousin Mohammad Daoud.

Mr. Daoud abolished the monarchy and instituted constitutional measures that many Afghans believed led to the revolution, the 1979-1989 occupation by the Soviet troops and 13 years of war with the U.S.-backed guerrillas.

The Kremlin withdrew the last of its 115,000 troops in February 1989 but continued to provide weapons, ammunition and other supplies to help Afghan forces battle the U.S.-backed guerrillas.

The United States and the Soviet Union announced in September that they would halt weapons shipments to all warring parties, beginning Jan. 1, in an effort to encourage a peace settlement.

At a news conference late Saturday, Israeli spokesman Benjamin Netanyahu did not respond directly when asked whether the Israeli had objected to meeting Dr. Erekat.

"The idea is not to make provocations and not to make a spectacle of this," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Dr. Erekat said his personal overtures to Israeli delegates at the conference have been snubbed.

"I approached someone from the Israeli delegation... to shake his hand, and he said, 'you embarrass me,' and he ran away."

Palestinians considered the formal opening of the peace conference a start, but "the real negotiations and test of intentions starts tomorrow," Dr. Erekat said.

At stake is the fate of 1.7 million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Dr. Erekat is among them.

"I am a father of four children. I am really scared that my children will grow up because I know if they grow up under Shamir's rule, he will kill them," Dr. Erekat said.

"We have to learn maybe how to live as neighbours, how to exist as neighbours... We are offering a rapprochement."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Arabs win first round of talks — Al Yom

NICOSIA (R) — A Saudi Arabian newspaper said on Monday the Arabs had won the first round of Middle East peace talks and succeeded in "pulling the rug" from under the feet of Israeli negotiators. "By all standards the outcome of the first round of the peace conference held in Madrid is in favour of the Arabs, not the Israelis," Al Yom said in an editorial. "The main reason for this is that the Arab negotiator still holds the reins in his hands through calm and sound discussions of the Arab-Israeli crisis based on logic and reason, contrary to the Israeli negotiator who seemed intransigent and imbalanced," it added. The paper said: "The Arab negotiator succeeded in pulling the rug from under the feet of the Israeli negotiator who found himself confused and unable to continue a peace dialogue." Another Saudi newspaper, Al-Riyadh, described the opening sessions as good "because they gave the Arabs an effective role during the negotiations or in facing journalists, including the Israelis."

Turkish court charges Greek ship captain

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish court has arrested the Greek captain of a Cyprus-registered ship on arms smuggling charges and his lawyer said Monday he would seek his release. Yasar Gunaydin, deputy chief prosecutor of the Istanbul state security court, said Panourios Dimos, master of the 2,700-tonne Cape Maleas, was charged Saturday. Twenty-four crew from Poland, Egypt, the Philippines and the Maldives Islands had been released, he said. Police seized the Cape Maleas and its crew in the Bosphorus on Oct. 22 with an arms cargo loaded in Bulgaria and claimed by Iran. An Iranian presidential envoy met President Turgut Ozal last week but failed to win the vessel's release. Husamettin Nisan, the Greek captain's lawyer, said the Istanbul court was denying him access to documents concerning his client's interrogation, but he would apply for his release. "The court is talking to everyone under the sun except me," Mr. Nisan told Reuters. "They tell the press what is going on but not me. This is absolutely disgraceful." Turkey says the captain violated an international convention regulating shipping through the Bosphorus by not informing the Turkish authorities that his ship was carrying arms.

Quake jolts Iranian town; 20 hurt

NICOSIA (R) — A powerful earthquake hit the southwest Iranian town of Behbahan Monday, injuring at least 20 people, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said. It was the third quake to jolt the town in four days. Geologists at Tehran University measured it at six degrees on the Richter scale and put the epicentre at 580 kilometres southwest of the capital. IRNA said quakes also rocked the Khuzestan provincial capital of Ahvaz, about 200 kilometres northwest of Behbahan, and the town of Izeh early Monday but caused no casualties. It said several houses were damaged in Behbahan, about 50 kilometres inland from the northeast tip of Gulf.

Brazilian foreign minister in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek arrived in Tehran Monday with a 70-person trade delegation, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said that during his three-day official visit, Mr. Rezek will meet his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, as well as the ministers of oil, energy, transportation and agriculture. Mr. Rezek's visit comes as U.S. intelligence sources have warned that China has sold nuclear technology to Tehran to bolster a secret arms programme. Brazil is one of several countries believed to be helping Iran in its nuclear programme.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Clementine
18:30 Sidiqia Canine
18:50 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:20 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Who's the Boss
21:10 Our House
22:00 News in English
22:30 Columbo

PRAYER TIMES

06:32 Fajr
05:51 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:19 Dhur
14:21 'Asr
16:48 Maghreb
18:06 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlik, Tel. 810740
Assistance of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 62545

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assam International Church Tel. 683236

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold and partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers, especially in the northern parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Agila, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 9 / 17
Agila 14 / 26
Dorcas 8 / 18
Jordan Valley 16 / 25

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Saleh Tamoun 898003
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740
Dr. Ahmed Odeh 790286
Dr. Mohammed Al Sawa 732556
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783336
Al Asema pharmacy 637035
Nakrakh pharmacy 625672
Al Saleh pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Salah pharmacy 637660

IRBD:
Dr. Ziad Al Asay (—)

AL Sharaa's pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Rafeh Atallah (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 630341
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Herald Complaints 605900
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 661176
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

OVERSEAS CALLS

Central Amman Telephone 010230
Reprints 623101
Abdallah Telephone Repair 661101
Radio Jordan 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Shifa Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsat 661174
St. Elizabeth Hospital 661121
University Hospital 842545
Al-Muasher Hospital 662719
The Islamic, Abdali 661273/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661646
Italian, Al-Mashraq 771013

AL-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Amay, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)500560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Ham Moders Hospital (09)989990
SIBIR:
Petersen Hospital (02)22555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)22225
Be Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Piscine Hays Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (03)5220-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:20 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:30 Agila (RJ)
05:35 Warsaw, Dubai (RJ)
05:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:30 London (RJ)
17:05 New York, Montreal (RJ)
17:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:20 Tripoli (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

19:35 Beirut (ME)
11:05 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:30 Agila (RJ)
08:30 Brussels, London (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
10:40 Tripoli (RJ)
11:10 Edinburgh, Madrid (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:45 Rome (RJ)
11:50 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)
20:35 Dhahran (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15 Larnaca (RJ)
21:15

Race across desert to promote tourist sites

AMMAN (J.T.) — Attention this month will be focused on tourist sites in the desert and archaeological areas of Jordan which will serve as an arena for a series of activities, including a car rally organised by the El Sol Spanish magazine in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Archaeology.

A ministry statement said Monday that the series of activities are designed to help market Jordan in European countries in general and in Spain in particular. The race will follow the so-called Nabatean route covering all the archaeological and desert sites in Jordan, according to the ministry statement.

It said that nearly 50 competitors from Spain, in addition to unspecified numbers from Jordan and other countries, will take part in the car rally. The progress of the rally will be presented daily on Spain's radio and television stations through satellite, with the scenes showing the various parts of archaeological sites located along the route, the statement added.

It said the event came as a result of intensive efforts on the part of the ministry, working in conjunction with the national air carrier Royal Jordanian (RJ). Acting through tour operators and in cooperation with the media in Europe in the past few months, the ministry has succeeded in paving the way for the coming events.

The statement noted that a similar programme was organised by the Spanish magazine in Morocco last year.

It said that the rally will be held as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday on Nov. 14. To pave the ground for the event, Minister of Tourism and Abdul Karim Al Kabariti Monday met with teams of Spanish journalists and spoke in detail about the tourism industry in Jordan, services offered to visitors, tourist projects underway and future plans.



Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taber Monday discusses the importance of

effectively using the country's natural resources at the opening of a geologists' seminar (Petra photo)

Official cites need for Jordan to better utilise natural resources

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan needs to double its efforts to exploit its natural resources in view of the growing population and the increasing requirements of social and economic development in the Kingdom, according to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taber.

While utilising the natural resources of the country, the concerned authorities should take into account effects on the environment, which should be safeguarded for future generations, said the minister in an address at the opening of the Fourth Conference of Jordanian Geologists which started Monday.

The conference's title, "Geology in the Service of the National Economy," reflects the keenness of the Jordanian Geologists Association (JGA) to link the utilisation of natural resources to socio-economic development in Jordan, the minister said.

He reviewed the natural and mineral wealth found in the Arab world and called on Arab countries to cooperate in their ex-

ploitation of these resources through exchange of expertise and information and the transfer of modern technology which should be placed at the disposal of developmental needs.

Mr. Taber, who stood in for Prime Minister Taher Masi in opening the two-day meetings, wished the geologists success in their endeavours to serve the national interest.

Dr. Sami Sharif, the Arab Geologists Federation secretary general, voiced appreciation of the JGA's endeavours and programmes designed to help bolster the national economy. He said that Jordanian geologists were working hard in prospecting for new minerals and water resources, adopting modern technology in utilising the existing minerals and cooperating with various organisations to achieve the aspired goal.

George Haddadin, JGA president, told the meeting that his association has been pursuing efforts to help the country exploit oil shale to produce oil. Studies

conducted by the JGA served as a basis for the phosphate, potash, fertiliser, cement, rock, wool, and white cement as well as glass industries in Jordan, Mr. Haddadin said.

But, he added, a number of obstacles impede the association's activities largely due to the lack of sufficient and accurate information and data about mineral rock.

Fire causes minimal damage, no casualties

AMMAN (Petra) — A fire which broke out at a video cassette store in the Jabal Hussein area Monday completely destroyed the store's contents but caused no casualties or other damage to neighbouring stores.

A spokesman for the Civil Defence Department (CDD) said that the fire, which was apparently caused by a short circuit, engulfed the whole store, burning all its contents.

Two teams of firemen assisted by scales and cranes were rushed to the store, located on the fifth floor of the Sakina Shopping Centre Complex, and helped to evacuate the building.

According to the spokesman, heavy smoke filled the neighbouring rooms and offices as well as stores selling clothes and other inflammable materials.

In one of the stores, large amounts of ammonia bottles were found moved to a safe place away from the heat, the spokesman added. He said, that only the contents of the store were destroyed thanks to the speedy and intensive efforts of the firemen, one of whom was overcome with smoke and had to be evacuated to nearby hospital.

Traffic along the main Jabal Hussein street was temporarily disrupted to make room for the fire engines and the fire fighting operations.

Photograph exhibit depicts Gulf war

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of photographs entitled "War on Culture and Creativity" was opened Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre. The exhibition, which is organised by the Jordanian Committee for Saving the Cultural Heritage in Iraq in cooperation with the Jordanian Popular Committee for Supporting Iraq, displays photos depicting the destruction of the Iraqi cities by the U.S.-led alliance in the Gulf war.

Jordan says former West Bank Palestinians must return

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan said on Monday it would insist that more than 500,000 Palestinians who have lived in the Kingdom since the 1967 Middle East war return to the West Bank as part of any peace deal.

The Kingdom, home to nearly one million Palestinian refugees from two Arab-Israeli wars, also pledged to press for compensation for itself and those Palestinians who had lost property during the creation of Israel in 1948.

Adel Irsheid, head of the Foreign Ministry Palestinian Affairs Department, said the fate of 960,212 Palestinians registered with the U.N. as being in Jordan would be tackled during the third phase of peace talks which will also cover other regional matters such as arms control and water rights.

"Regarding those who became displaced in 1967, Jordan will insist that they return to the West Bank to join the new political situation that will

emerge there at the end of the peace talks," Mr. Irsheid, Jordan's top refugee official told Reuters, in an interview.

The U.N. figure includes 430,083 official refugees who fled their homes in areas on which the Jewish state was created in 1948. The rest, those who came to Jordan during the 1967 war when the West Bank was under Jordanian rule, are registered as displaced.

"Jordan will depend on U.N. Resolution 194 in dealing with the refugees of 1948," Mr. Irsheid said.

Resolution 194, passed in 1948, says Palestinians anywhere have the right to return or be compensated for lost property.

Officials say the bill, which has been growing in the four decades since Israel was created, totals billions of dollars.

Most officials and individuals say the refugees of 1948 would not be allowed to return as part of a peace settlement but many expect to win hefty compensation and stay in Jordan.

They say Jordan itself expects compensation for past

and future health care, education and other services.

Mr. Irsheid had no figures but said Amman would seek help from a U.N. unit set up in 1950 to assess compensation.

Jordan's Land and Survey Department, he added, had received from the United Nations all records of real estate owned by Palestinians in the pre-1948 boundaries of Israel. Palestinians are pressing for an independent state on the West Bank and in Gaza Strip. Such a state would be in confederation with Jordan which has strong economic, political and demographic links with the Israeli-occupied territories.

The peace conference which brought Israel and its Arab foes to the negotiating table for the first time in 43 years aims at giving Palestinians autonomy over the next five years.

Negotiations about their final status are due to begin within three years.

Some lawyers are calling for compensation for refugees' real estate based on current market prices.

"Property owners should be compensated," said Raja'i Dajani, a lawyer and a former interior minister. "Those who had no real estate should also be compensated because they were uprooted and had to start a new life in agony in the diaspora."

Mr. Dajani said the same formula that was used by Germany to compensate the Jews for the Nazi holocaust could be used.

Many Palestinian refugees, who still have keys to the homes they left 43 years ago in the hope of returning one day, are taking a more pragmatic approach.

"No matter how hard reality is, I don't think we will ever go back," said refugee camp dweller Moussa Youssef. "But we are ready to stay here and improve our living conditions if we get good compensation."

Mr. Irsheid said Palestinians were thronging the offices of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in Jordan to ensure they were registered as refugees.

RJ to inaugurate new route Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — As of Thursday, Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ) will inaugurate its Amman-Toronto route at the rate of one weekly flight and might expand to two flights in the spring.

The opening of the Amman-Toronto route in cooperation with Air Canada this week marks one more step in expanding the national airline's routes to various corners of the world, said an RJ official.

The new route manifests the revival of the national airline's activities which witnessed stagnation and recession during the Gulf crisis, the official added.

RJ Chief Executive Officer Husam Abu Ghazaleh has said that RJ which sustained heavy losses as a result of the Gulf crisis, was now returning to normal and increasing its volume.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh, who last May estimated RJ's losses from the Gulf crisis at \$100 million, said that the airline's operations are gaining momentum. The RJ official Monday cited the opening of the Amman-Beirut and later the Amman-Colombo routes in the summer as signs of improvement in the airline's world-wide operations.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh, leading a group of senior RJ officials, headed Monday for Toronto to prepare the final arrangements for the operating of the new route. A team of representatives of the Jordanian travel and tourist offices also flew with Mr. Abu Ghazaleh.

According to the RJ official, the new route will also help stimulate trade exchanges between Canada and Jordan and contribute towards bringing in more tourist groups and marketing Jordan abroad, especially as Toronto has a large community of Arab descent.

The official said that the maiden flight along the new route will be launched on a Tristar aircraft. At present, the flights will be made on Thursday's but a Monday flight might be added in the spring.

The official said that the decision to operate the Amman-Toronto route came after due studies and research on the part of the national airline.

Symposium provides forum for exchange of information in pharmaceutical field

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from nine Arab countries and representatives of Arab universities and pharmaceutical industries gathered in Amman Monday for a three-day symposium on pharmaceutical support industries.

The seminar is organised here by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in cooperation with the Health Ministry.

The main topic for discussion is wrapping and packaging processes connected with the medicine industry in the Arab world, according to Dr. Jaafar Abdul Ghani, UNIDO representative.

Dr. Abdul Ghani reviewed UNIDO's efforts to promote the pharmaceutical industries of the Arab world, which in turn contribute towards the development of

Arab economies.

According to Dr. Abdul Ghani, the developing nations consume some 20 per cent of the world's medicines and the Arab world, along with other developing countries, needs to double its efforts to become self-sufficient in medicines. Dr. Abdul Ghani said that Jordan has gone a long way in covering a great portion of the national needs of medicine.

Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi, who opened the sessions, underlined the importance of inter-country cooperation in the wrapping and packaging medicines and in overcoming obstacles impeding production and marketing. He said that the Health Ministry was taking measures to help pharmaceutical industries in Jordan meet the local needs.

The minister voiced Jordan's appreciation of UNIDO and of the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA), which is the symposium's co-sponsor.

The minister said that ACDIMA has been offering valuable assistance to the pharmaceutical industries of Jordan and other Arab countries. ACDIMA Director General Mawaffiq Haddadin said that his company's activities are designed to help the Arab world attain self-sufficiency in medicine production.

Delegates taking part in the three-day meetings represent ministries of health in Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia as well as pharmaceutical companies of the Arab world.

WHO calls for increasing immunisation campaigns against children's diseases

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) opened Monday a four-day meeting to discuss means of eradicating diseases and reducing infant and children mortality rates.

Delegates from nine Arab countries including Jordan will be discussing a lot of diseases, particularly those affecting children and mothers, and steps to international cooperation to stem them.

Jordan seeks international cooperation to combat such diseases and provide immunisation against them, said Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Addressing the opening session of the "Inter-Country Workshop on Epidemiological Surveillance for Expanded Programme on Immunisation and Target Diseases," the minister said that two organisations have already recognised Jordan as one of the leading countries of the region in providing immunisation coverage to the largest sector of the population.

A total of 44 specialists and experts are taking part in the workshop, which will also deal with matters related to the reporting and registering of infection and methods used to combat



Mamdouh Al Abbadi

polio, diphtheria and tetanus among other killer diseases.

Dr. Abdul Majid Hadi, WHO representative in Amman, read out a message by Dr. Hussein Jazairi, the WHO regional director, dwelling on means of preventing the spread of diseases through immunisation.

The WHO has been exerting strenuous efforts within the countries of the region to deal with polio, tetanus, measles and other children's diseases through national programmes, he said.

He added that further workshops and symposiums dealing with this subject should be held in the countries of the region to draw attention to immunisation programmes.

Prince visits war college

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday visited the Royal War College where he was briefed on its activities. Prince Hassan met with students at the college and members of its steering committee.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma looks on Monday as officials address the audience at the "Improving your business" seminar (Petra photo)

Seminar addresses needs and problems of small businesses

By Maha Addasi

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Queen Alia Fund and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Monday, started a two-day seminar entitled "Improving Your Business" to discuss methods of improving the cottage industry in Jordan, officials said.

The seminar's specifically targeted at industries that employ less than five people and which are categorised as "informal" businesses. According to informed sources, employees in this type of businesses do not get all the benefits that employees in larger businesses get.

"Industries employing five or more people are considered formal businesses so employees there get all the benefits and rights specified by the labour law," said Ali Dajani, a consultant with the Chamber of Commerce.

"Out of weekends, annual leave, official holidays, sick leaves, severance pay and indemnities, employees in informal businesses only get their indemnities and severance pay," he said. "We are talking about 70,000 industries categorised as informal."

According to Mr. Dajani, employees working in informal businesses, including self-employed people specialising

in vocational work and handicrafts are "the most tolerant to burdensome work and the least lucky when it comes to rights. We must give this type of workers more attention and include them under the umbrella of the social security."

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, under whose patronage the seminar is being held, said that Jordan was deeply interested in giving encouragement to small-sized income-generating projects, a policy which started at the beginning of the 1970s. In this process, money lending organisations have been offering soft loans and vocational training centres have been giving training to people initiating such projects, which in turn promotes social-economic development, the Princess said.

Concentration on such projects is deemed essential under the present circumstances to help solve the problem of unemployment which, she said, has been aggravated with the return to Jordan by some 300,000 people from the Gulf states.

To achieve that goal, social and voluntary organisations in Jordan have been concentrating their efforts to provide training in new trades required by the local market and providing skills to Jordanian women to help them become produc-

tive elements of society rather than remaining as consumers. Addressing the meeting, Dr. Qasem Obaidat, acting labour minister, reminded his audience of the difficult economic circumstance facing the Kingdom.

The minister said the world and the regional economic recession has adversely affected the country and its labour and employment sectors.

Furthermore, he said, developments in the labour markets of the neighbouring Arab states have had their negative impact on the labour market in Jordan, affecting social and economic sectors of the Kingdom.

The regional consultant for ILO, Luma Nasr, said that the seminar aims to create awareness as the importance of these informal businesses so that they too can benefit from social security.

"We hope that as a result of this seminar we can come up with ideas and suggestions to create long-term projects to develop skills that these informal businesses are based. We want to support this type of businesses by financing, so funding is a major issue to be discussed here," Ms. Nasr said.

Several working papers on small business-related ideas and suggestions will be presented at this seminar.



JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD INVITATION TO TENDER 21F/91

JPMC announces the invitation to Tender No. 21F/91 for the design and supply of fine phosphate pneumatic unloading and conveying systems.

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman Supply Department until, 2:00 p.m. local time Thursday 5.12.1991. Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD (35) or equal for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submission tender is 12:00 hours local time Thursday Dec. 12, 1991.

Wasef Azar
Managing Director

The Gallery Announcing a special season of antique lithographs, engravings, folio-illustrations and maps

October 22-November 14



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Orientalist scenes

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
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Editorial and advertising offices:

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The View from Fourth Circle

Enough junk. Time for some answers

By Rami G. Khouri

THE opening performance during the first week of the Madrid peace conference went more or less as expected, and, I would suggest, were largely irrelevant. The fact that the proceedings were televised live guaranteed that the ceremonial opening days would be more showbusiness than getting down to the business of peace making, and this is exactly what happened.

Now begins the real work of negotiating justice, implementing U.N. resolutions, promoting coexistence, and perhaps enjoying peace. From what happened in Madrid, however, it seems that the real work will need some more time to begin. I say this not only because of the evasive and hardline position of the Israelis, who still refuse in public to discuss the principle of exchanging territory for peace, but also because of the garbage morality of the United States.

The whole peace conference has been portrayed as the fruits of herculean American efforts, in the face of colossal odds due to an inveterate spirit of warmongering that permeates every drop of Arab and Israeli blood. Two separate processes are at work, both of them sad and unhelpful. On the one hand, the Western media itself obviously swallowed the self-congratulatory but deceptive line put out by the American government, to the effect that Washington is making enormous efforts to bring the Israelis and the Arabs to the negotiating table. On the other hand, the Americans themselves, in the persons of George Bush and James Baker, are assuming the false posture of innocent bystanders, disinterested mediators driven only by their desire to do good, and to bring peace to our troubled region.

Mr. Baker's closing remarks on Friday were particularly offensive, and his presumptuousness quite sickening. As he exhorted the people of the Middle East to overcome historical conflicts and make peace, he wanted us to believe that while the Arabs and Israelis killed each other the United States was an uninvolved and distant party. The fact is, peacemaking is so difficult today largely because the United States has spent over \$45 billion in the last several decades making sure that Israel remains militarily stronger than the combined forces of its Arab neighbours. The combination of American financial support for the Israeli occupation of Palestine and American political acquiescence in the Zionist political subjugation of the region has been anger and tensions rise to the point where peace-making is so difficult today.

Instead of coming to terms with the truth of the recent past, and recognising its role as one of the major actors in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Washington prefers to retreat into its make-believe world of righteousness and innocence. This is pure garbage morality at its American best, lies in the guise of impartial information — embellished with electronic wizardry, live satellite transmission, and the slightly frenzied predisposition of an American-dominated Western media that was so servile in parroting Washington's view of the Gulf war earlier this year that it remains driven by the momentum of its own ignorance of history, and the fears and insecurities of young men and women reporters who dread getting

lost in the bazaars of Middle Eastern reality.

The reality is very different, and obviously very hard for most Western journalists to understand. Let us recognise precisely what we are being offered these days — this is the first installment of the new world order history being presented to us by the dangerous combination of American generals, oil men in politicians' clothing, and corporate leaders. This is the first attempt to rewrite contemporary history in the gobbledygook language and fuddy-duddy morality of George Bush's neo-colonial order — but the attempt is spurious and demeaning, and it will not work. It is in our best interest and that of the Americans themselves that they hear this and understand it.

The whole point of the Madrid process — the reason the Arabs are there in force — is that it has turned the traditional power flows of this region on their head. It has shifted the region's focus from military to political confrontation, and it has replaced the criteria of strength of arms with those of moral force. American Cruise missiles and Israeli air force jets have no meaning in Madrid.

The Americans will have a crucial role to play in the peace negotiations. Like the Israelis, they are trying to delay as long as possible the hard task of leaving their comfortable but violent world of make-believe, and returning to the real world of chronic Middle Eastern conflict — chronic conflict that is fuelled by a predatory and intransparent Zionist movement largely funded and protected by the United States government. But very soon — in about two months, I predict — Washington will have to end its demeaning performance, and it will have to come down to earth and grapple with the Israeli monster it has spawned.

The Arab parties have all made it clear that they are willing to negotiate with the Israelis and to live in peace with an Israeli state, but only if that Israeli state itself recognises the national rights of the Palestinians and lives in peace with a self-determinant Palestinian national entity. This is a negotiation to bring peace by offering justice and legitimate rights to all parties. It is not, as the Israelis would like, a jamboree to celebrate the supremacy of Jewish heritage and rights. Nor is it, as the Americans seem to prefer, a lottery in which each party puts down its money on the table and waits to find out if the owner of the casino is fair, which would determine what each party may or may not win.

The Arabs have made it clear that we are willing to give Israel and the United States virtually all they ask for, but only if and when we get our rights as well. In return, we have heard nothing substantial from the Israelis about their willingness to meet our legitimate demands. They talk of coexistence, but not inalienable rights. They talk of their history and religion, but not about compliance with U.N. resolutions.

Very soon, the United States will face the moment of reckoning. Will it or will it not use its considerable political and economic power to nudge Israel to comply with U.N. resolutions and to withdraw from occupied Arab lands, so that the Arabs in

return would make simultaneous gestures to Israel? This remains the crux of the matter in our eyes, and to wish it otherwise would be to engage in the sort of self-demeaning political fantasies that American leaders now offer us.

The first week of negotiations in Madrid was the last grasp of the past. It consisted mostly of old rhetoric and known positions. There was no real movement — but then, there never is on front of television cameras that demand show business above all else. The entertainment value in Madrid was high, the political content low. American officials tried but failed to exonerate themselves from their share of the blame for the warfare and mistrust that grip the region. They tried to turn this into a political Biblical epic, a moving drama of old warriors who suddenly see God, sit next to George Bush for a fleeting moment, grasp the truth, embrace religious ethics, and vanquish ancient hatreds and injustices. But the world does not work like that. Life is not a television drama. History is not encapsulated in neat ten minute segments that are conveniently scheduled between carpet cleaner and beer commercials. The junk that permeates political morality in Washington does not travel well around the world.

And so, my instincts tell me, forget about everything that happened last week in Madrid, and for that matter ignore everything else that happens in the next several weeks. The real crunch will come sometime down the road when Israel runs out of excuses to delay or shift the focus of the peace talks, and Washington finally comes to grips with its substantial responsibility for events in the Middle East. We may not be pleased with Washington's performance to date, but nevertheless we continue to work with it because the promise of peace and justice is so immense, and so important for everyone in this region. Even those who sell us junk will realise one day that there are no more buyers for their wares, and they will have to sell us something more appealing.

The fact that the Arabs are all in Madrid in strength is a sign that we are not deterred by the tactics of the Israelis or uncertainties about the capacity of the Americans to shift their political mode from rubbish to responsibility. Peace will come only when justice is done, and justice cannot be done if the Americans give Israel one of billions of dollars a year in order to maintain Israel's military dominance of the region and its colonisation of Palestine.

The moment of historical reckoning is near. Very soon, we shall learn the answers to questions we have long asked: Can the Americans convince or force the Israelis to live according to the rules that everyone else in the world is asked to live by? Will U.N. resolutions be implemented in and adjacent to Palestine as they are in Kuwait and Iraq? Do the Israelis have greater rights than Palestinians? Is Israel's security more important than the security of adjacent Arab states? To date, Washington has avoided answering these questions, preferring instead to give us consecutively larger doses of junk. We've had enough junk. Now we expect answers.

Bridges will be built

THE FIRST ROUND of bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel ended on Sunday night with mixed results. On the Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli side the first round as characterised by Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, the head of the Jordanian delegation, were "good and businesslike." There was agreement that the negotiations will be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338; will be conducted on two tracks — Palestinian-Israeli and Jordanian-Israeli — and that the venue of the next round will be decided through consultations among the parties. Each side also aired its reservations and understanding.

While the first round on the Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli front went alright, it seems it was not so on the Syrian-Israeli front. Both sides emerged from Sunday night's talks expressing frustrations. The chief of the Syrian delegate, Mufaq Alaf, described the talks as "a waste of time." And the Israeli chief, Yossi Ben-Aharon, said it was a "cause for much frustration." One encouraging signal that came from both is their agreement to meet again soon, once they decided where and when.

Despite the wide gulf that seems to separate Syria from Israel, the Madrid peace conference and the talks have so far accomplished a great deal, especially on the core issue i.e. the Palestinian question.

As Dr. Majali said: "The Palestinian identity has finally received the recognition it deserves."

The fact that the antagonists have agreed to talk in the first place, the fact that they met and their commitment to meet again are all signs that the process is progressing albeit with some difficulties on the Syrian-Israeli front. However, although clear coordination seems to be lacking between the Syrians on one side and the Palestinians and Jordanians on the other, the Syrian position must have been coordinated with Egypt and probably with the co-sponsors. While some observers contend that the Palestinians stated their position very moderately, they believe the Syrian position, that demands full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories before peace is negotiated, is designed to put maximum pressure on Israel. No matter what maximum positions some of the parties declare, reports from Madrid indicate that the Americans are determined to push all the parties towards a settlement. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker asserted Monday that the U.S. "intend(s) to stay fully engaged, as fully engaged as we can and for as long as we think the parties are serious about peace. And for the moment I think they are serious."

Since this is the U.S. stand and since the U.S. holds all the strings in the region, the process will continue and peace should be within reach.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ARAB countries which went to the Madrid peace talks are convinced of the U.S. promises and Washington's pledges to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict; the Israelis went there because they are in no position to anger Washington, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that the Arabs view this conference as one for proving the American credibility and are now waiting to see what standard the U.S. administration is adopting with regard to the implementation of the international legitimacy. The Arabs went to Madrid with the Gulf war on their minds; tragedies the war was waged by the U.S. in order to implement U.N. resolutions, and is causing sufferings to the Arab people of Iraq, the paper said. It said that the United States and the world community at large are called on to implement the international legitimacy where the Palestine question is concerned and should impose on the Israelis respect for the world organisation which has adopted the resolutions. The paper said that as the Arab masses follow up the outcome of the talks in Madrid, they are apprehensive that the Israelis might transform the negotiations into a vicious circle eluding all attempts to make its leaders succumb to international law. The paper criticised U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for saying that he would place the blame for any failures on the two sides to the meetings. The paper said that by saying so, Mr. Baker seems to be paving the ground for absolving the Israelis from their intransigent position or trying to oblige the U.S. administration of any blame for not being able to honour its commitments.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Monday said that the negotiations in Madrid are bound to lead to one of two things: the implementation of U.N. resolutions and respect for international legitimacy or the supremacy of the law of the jungle, with Israel continuing to defy the world community by maintaining its occupation of Arab land. The whole world is anxious to see whether the American credibility has any value and whether it is truly committed to the international legitimacy applying the international law on the Israelis it did on the Iraqis, said Hosni Ayyesh. Should the results of the negotiations be negative, nations of the world would be quick to conclude that the so-called new world order is no more than colonialism in a new form, Ayyesh said. The writer said that the first beneficiary of the Madrid parley will be Iran and all the movements and factions affiliated with the Iranian regime or those taking directives from Tehran. Iran would have the upper hand in the Arab World with special influence on those Arabs who sided by the United States in the Gulf war, said Ayyesh. The writer said the United States would appear to the whole world as a conspirator with Iran and Israel against the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular, if the negotiations in Madrid collapse. The writer said that the Arab countries can absorb the shock of any failure by adopting two strategies: forming a strong front grouping Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq and ending Egypt's Camp David agreements with Israel and inviting Egypt to join the eastern front to deal with Israel's arrogance.

By Michael Ignatieff

The following article is reprinted from the Oct. 27 issue of the Observer.

THE man leading the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference this week, Haider Abdul Shafi, once served me tea in his home in Gaza City. The year was 1988, the intifada was in its sixth month, and I was there to persuade him to take part in a BBC series bringing Israelis and Palestinians together around a table to talk.

The programmes we made then included three of the key members of the delegation to this week's conference — Hanan Ashrawi, the American-educated dean of the Bir Zeit University; Saeb Erekat, the bluff, outspoken lawyer from Nablus; and the thin, courtly man of few words, Haider Abdul Shafi.

He had been a doctor in Gaza all his life, arrested by the Egyptians when they had Gaza, and then by the Israelis when they took it over. His English was soft and accented and he measured every word.

To the Palestinians, he was the wily elder statesman of the "inside" leadership. To the Israeli authorities in Gaza, of course, he was a troublemaker, an associate of terrorists.

He said to me then that Israel had a choice: either it made peace with people like him, or it would have to wage war for its survival with the Islamic fundamentalists, then already well established in the camps. Israel has decided, at last, to talk to the doctor from Gaza.

You can't understand Palestinian bitterness unless you have been to Gaza. Just beyond the gates of Abdul Shafi's austere, neat, bourgeois house the nightmarish Gaza begins: the mile upon mile of refugee camps in the sands of Gaza beach, the burning barricades, the overturned cars, the knots of Palestinian youths, their faces masked by beads-carves, tanning the Israeli patrols. Over everything hung the characteristic Gaza stench, composed of burning tyres, rotting sewage and the acrid tang of the sea.

The world is full of places where you think this can't go on, and it does, year after year, decade after decade, Gaza is such a place.

Everyone has excuses for Gaza. Israelis tell you it was just as bad under the Egyptians before 1956; they tell you the Arab states closed their doors to the Palestinians, which is why they



are still in these wretched camps, but when you've heard all the excuses, the truth is as evident as the stench. The place is a disgrace to the Israeli nation.

In 1988, the intifada had the Israelis on the run. Then stone-throwing degenerated into random stabbings of Israelis and victimisation of Palestinians accused of collaboration with the occupiers. World opinion swung away from the Palestinians; the Israelis hung on, and the Palestinian leadership watched their international support drain away.

With the Palestinian support for Iraq during the Gulf war, Palestinian credibility sank to its nadir. To get to Madrid at all, the "inside" leadership of the Palestinians had to pare their demands to the barest minimum. So desperate are they for a deal, that they will even settle for the limited self-government on the West Bank and Gaza that they once dismissed out of hand. Yet they are hoping that Madrid may create a momentum which will carry them first towards autonomy, then towards demilitarised statehood.

This is not a fanciful expectation. The Palestinians believe that, for the first time in 40 years, American policy has begun to move away from the Israelis. This shift, Palestinians believe, actually dates back to American disgust and alarm at the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The Reagan administration began to realise that the Israeli determination to search out and destroy the Palestinian leadership was destabilising the entire region.

As the Soviet empire began to crumble and the Soviets ceased to

be a credible competitor in the region, American policy-makers began to ask whether they really needed the Israelis. The two former Texas oil men who run American foreign policy didn't have much trouble coming to the conclusion that America's long-term interests lay where the black gold was.

During the Gulf war, when the Patriots were sent to defend Tel Aviv, the gesture appeared to confirm Israel's pride of place as America's prime Middle East partner. In fact, it was the moment when America began to dictate the terms of Israel's security. The Bush administration's decision to withhold the \$10 billion loan package in September set the seal on a decisive policy shift. It forced the Israelis to the table.

It is also evident that the American administration has been working, behind the scenes, to undermine the credibility of the Israeli claim that it is menaced on all sides by hostile powers bent on driving it into the sea. Without covert assistance from American government sources, Seymour Hersh would never have been able to dig up the size of Israel's nuclear arsenal — 300 warheads of all types, from artillery shells to missiles capable of reaching the southern Soviet Union. America wants the implication to be clear: Israel is safer than it claims to be. It can afford to negotiate.

The Arabs and Palestinians are gambling that an Israeli premier would not dare to sabotage his paymaster's conference. The Israelis are gambling that the Americans will not force them to concede Palestinian autonomy.

In line with this strategy of keeping its own intentions a secret, America has not tabled a peace proposal, James Baker evidently believes that a Middle East peace conference can be like a Dallas oil deal; if you lock them in a room, send in some sandwiches and keep them talking, a deal might just emerge out of the cigar smoke and the exhaustion.

At lot will depend on Haider Abdul Shafi, on his patience, his tact and his guile. He has spent a life being humiliated by the Israelis and being ignored by the Americans. The temptation for Palestinians to indulge in gestures of wounded pride will be great. They have paid heavily for such gestures in the past. Behind them trail a legacy of missed opportunities and mistakes. Behind them too are the people of Gaza and the West Bank, suspicious of the process in Madrid. If the old fox fails them now, he will not be forgiven. Leadership will pass to harder men than he.

There is every reason to fear that Madrid will fail, and only one reason to be optimistic: in this world, when people say often enough, and stubbornly enough, this can't go on, eventually, after much struggle, it does stop. Gaza can't go on. The endless, brutish occupation of the territories cannot go on, for Israel's sake, for the Palestinians' sake. The year by year degradation of Israel into a high security state, the year by year rise of rancour and hatred between Israelis and Palestinians will end up destroying the best in both of them. No one around the table needs to like, respect or trust the other side. All they need to agree upon is: this can't go on.

Palestinians take independent road for peace

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

MADRID — By beginning direct negotiations with Israel without Syria's blessing, Palestinians and Jordan on Sunday put peace efforts above Arab unity and took charge of their own fate.

It was a development which could have momentous implications for Israeli-Arab peace hopes and shift the balance of power within the Arab World. Even before Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had praised the courage of Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied territories. He said they may have put their lives at risk by agreeing to come to the Madrid peace conference.

But their punctual appearance for historic talks with Israel, when it was still far from clear whether separate Syrian-Israeli negotiations would get underway, was perhaps an even bolder stroke.

It made it clear that the Palestinians and Jordanians, backed by Egypt and Saudi Arabia, would resist Syria's efforts to gain a veto over the entire Arab negotiating position.

Instead, when it became clear they were the only country refusing to attend the talks, the Syrians themselves, under intense pressure from fellow Arabs and the United States, wavered.

It was a Palestinian-Jordanian declaration of independence but did not come totally out of the blue. There were signs of it in diplomatic manoeuvring before the Madrid peace conference began and in the formal speeches. While Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa delivered a headline speech that failed to move beyond well-known clichés, Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber struck a new tone.

"We must remember that the extremists and the reactionists who speak in absolute terms are still lurking in the wings. It is from there that they issue their often-repeated clichés and venomous threats," he said. The statement was clearly aimed at Arab and Israeli extremists who had pledged to wreck peace efforts. But, on another sub-level, it could have been read as directed partly against Damascus.

Syria for decades was undisputed leader of Arab rejectionism until it abruptly changed course earlier this year by deciding to attend the Madrid conference. Palestinian delegation leader

Haider Abdul Shafi also pleaded to delegates to "rise above static and hardset concepts." He said they should discard "regressive ideology ... and abandon rigid and constricting positions."

In the runup to the conference, Syria hosted Arab foreign ministers in Damascus to adopt a common stance but the meeting produced only a vague pledge to coordinate positions.

Even more significantly, Syria failed to persuade its Arab brothers not to attend multilateral talks with Israel to discuss arms control, sharing water resources, refugees and other regional issues.

Damascus said Arabs should boycott the talks, due to begin within two weeks of the conference, until Israel started withdrawing from occupied territories.

But Saudi Arabia and Jordan, formally not known for taking bold positions against Syria's wishes, said they would attend the talks with or without Damascus.

Behind the rift in the Arab position lies Syria's fear that it has little to gain from negotiations with Israel and may end up isolated.

While the Israelis are ready to discuss self-rule with the Palestinians and the Palestinians are desperate to ease the heavy burdens of living under Israeli military occupation, the Israelis say they will not return an inch of the occupied Golan Heights to Syria.

U.S. officials think it may be possible to progress on the Palestinian-Israeli front even if the Syrian-Israeli talks reach deadlock. But they believe progress would be considerably easier if the Syrians remain involved. Syria made the key breakthrough possible by agreeing to come to Madrid and abandoning rejectionism. Reverting to its former position could jeopardise all the gains made so far.

But another dynamic is also at work. By addressing the peace conference and by extension the world, the Palestinians have gained in status and prestige and may have enlarged their room for manoeuvre.

They are now recognised as authentic spokesmen for their nation. In the past, Palestinians' actions were largely determined and controlled by others, now they may at last have taken charge of their own agenda.

Jordan: Palestine file is opened

(Continued from page 1)

was very good and so was the performance of the Jordanian delegation. Also in view of the internationally unaccepted positions of (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir there appears to be a support for the Arab view and in particular the Palestinian view. There is no doubt that his this will develop as talks continue. If it is possible to say that the first phase had ended then it has ended to the favour of the Arab view and more precisely in favour of the Palestinian problem.

Q: How do you see then next phases? More precisely, the parallel bilateral and multilateral talks? Can you give us a broad overview of what is yet to come?
A: There are clear issues which are limited to Jordan both in their intricacies and their extent. But the Jordanian handling of the talks will not be solely connected to these limited issues. Following up developments in the Palestinian problem and in coordinating with the Palestinian delegation on this issue. This does not mean that there will be an interference in the Palestinian negotiations but there will be an interchange. What takes place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip negatively reflects on the situation in Jordan and that was true before the conference and through any developments in the Palestinian problem or Israeli measures in the occupied territories and will also be true in the negotiations on the interim period. Throughout the dealing or meetings of the Jordanians and the Palestinians it was clear that there was understanding for this (interchange) and Jordan dealt with the Palestinians on this basis. You will find that the coordination between the two delegations and the dealings in bilateral issues whether Palestinian-Israeli or Jordanian-Israeli will continue and will grow continuously.

Q: Some analysts have expressed the fear that there isn't enough commitment in coordination among the Arab delegations to ensure that there will not be unilateral solutions by one state or hindrance of the development of a solution of the Palestinian problem because of the intransigence of another Arab state. How would comment on these theories?

A: All these issues are there in the minds of the Arab delegations and they want to avoid any conflict, or avoid transferring the conflict from the Arab side towards Israel to become a conflict among the Arabs themselves. Therefore it was obvious in Madrid that the initial Arab position were similar to a large extent. What followed was not a real conflict as such because it dealt with procedural matters rather than issues of substance on the Palestinian problem. As we stand in Jordan we will not allow any conflict to develop to the extent where this theory would become true. We are aware of this and we think that this also applies to Syrians and the Lebanese. What happened on Saturday while preparing for the bilateral meetings on Sunday has proven that the understanding, coordination and effort between the Jordanians and the Palestinians was on the same wavelength and almost total and therefore things went the way they did. This will be built upon. And it was not the result of a coincidence that occurred at that place but a result of coinciding in thought and correlation in interest and a common vision to the future.

There may appear differences in opinions among the Arab delegations at some time or another but there are limits, after which a conflict cannot go.

Q: Is there a concrete decision taken on that point?

A: At least I am speaking for the Palestinians and Jordanians. I know that there is a decision to that effect. We are committed to it and we are following it.

Q: But the agreement (among the Arab delegations) has not reached a committing detailed plan?

A: There is no commitment because you cannot commit the Syrians to many issues precisely because the problems which will be faced by the Syrians and the Israelis will be different from those faced by the Jordanians and Israelis or the Palestinians and Israelis.

Therefore we understood from the beginning that there might be progress in negotiations on one front more than another front. It is not required that we should all move in the same speed but we cannot be divided or make unilateral agreements and I think that there is no written commitment on those points but a binding political and moral one among delegations.

Q: There were reports that a Palestinian party would call for a confederation between Jordan, Palestine, Israel and Lebanon. What is your position towards such an idea?

A: We differed in Madrid with Israel on the venue for bilateral negotiations. Israel wants to move it to the region as a way of normalising relations and we have refused this because it is premature to discuss such a step before any tangible development in negotiations takes place. So how, when we differ on a venue, can we be expected to discuss a confederation? These are theoretical reports and are not practical. We have priorities which we have to deal with and conclude.

Among these priorities are Israeli withdrawal, self-determination for Palestinians and Jewish settlements. These are the issues that have priority. I actually believe that no Palestinian party would issue such a call but perhaps there are people who aim to disperse the Arab thoughts and make us divide our thinking over very wide areas instead of limiting ourselves in limited issues. Therefore I do not think that this is a realistic position or practical or even applicable.

Q: What if the ordinary session reconvenes and the situation between the government and parliament does not improve?

A: It is premature to issue a judgement on this issue but it should be admitted that there are existing facts. One is that there is a petition, which may now be of no value because of the absence of parliament, but it exists and it does express some deputies' stands. There are also parliamentary blocs which have contradictory stands. It is true that they have agreed on one point, but they have their political and local stands which are not similar. But it is very important at this time to avoid a crisis... we should avoid getting into a crisis at any price because it might reflect negatively on the general situation... I personally think that my first job is to avoid that crisis so that we may protect the things we gained and the foundations by which we have worked.

Q: As we speak about democracy and division of roles among the supporters of the peace conference, your government has been criticised for banning public gatherings, or interfering some which rejected peaceful solutions with Israel? How do you respond?

A: In fact we did not prevent except one rally and that was before the conference. All newspapers which express Arab stands whether they are with or against the conference are allowed to enter the country and are distributed.... we did not confiscate any newspaper except for one and only for one week because it carried phrases which we cannot allow; however I should stress that differences in views are allowed. Magazines printed abroad are allowed (and available in the markets).

We were asked to issue permits for several meetings. Before the public rally at the Professional Union Complex was held, many other gatherings were held in various parts of Jordan and no problems arose in these meetings, no did we prevent any of them at all. That meeting at the Professional Union Complex was sanctioned by the government. We also sent TV and radio reporters to record it in order to broadcast parts of it on television to allow for the expression of other views. We have no intention to oppose such gatherings as long as they abide by the regulations known by all of us.

What happened in the complex was not the responsibility of the government. There was a group supporting the conference there and chanted pro-peace slogans. There are some accusations, may God forgive those who accuse, but I am telling you that we do not oppose such gatherings... the second day there was a similar rally in Irbid; maybe you did not cover it or hear of it, but there was one. Several others took place in Al Wehdat refugee camp and Jordanian community colleges. They had no problems, were not prevented and no one said anything about holding them. The gathering at the Professional Union Complex was something we did not oppose and we were the ones who sanctioned it in the first place.

Q: Jordan carries a heavy economic burden, but the ramifications of this problem has not yet been made clear to the public. What kind of measures will the government take to deal with the national debt and its payments?
A: Jordan is burdened with debts... hundreds of millions of dollars are due next year... (Jordan) is unable to pay such sums. We have to go to the Paris Club to negotiate with debtor countries the delay of payment of these loans at later dates.

This meeting might take place in December. But the success of such negotiations will depend on Jordanian economic measures that should be taken. Such measures are limited to a small frame. It is untrue that the government will lift subsidies on some food supplies. The subsidies should go to those who deserve it. (They may) be used in a way which will benefit those who need them.

For example, flour. Flour is not used only in making bread but also in confectioneries, it is sold to foreigners, confectionary factories etc... Our view is that the Jordanian government or treasury, or in other words, the Jordanian citizens, should support such products which are not essential to the laymen. Our assessment is that these industries do not deserve the support and we want to direct our subsidies to the normal citizens who deserve such support.

Q: Tension between the government and parliament has been evident during the past few months, but as we are approaching the reconvening of parliament will there be conciliatory moves? Will there be a cabinet reshuffle? Or will parliament be dissolved?

A: The government is holding contacts with parliamentary blocs. These are cordial and responsible contacts. It is premature to talk about the results of such contacts. But certainly they are intended to prepare for the next ordinary session of parliament (Dec. 1).

The government and parliament must find a way to surpass the crisis that we passed through. The present circumstances do not permit any imbalances in the equation between the government and the House. The equation that existed between parliament and all previous governments. I must say that a positive spirit is being crystallised, and I do not want to

talk further on the issue. What these contacts would result in would come out in the coming few days.

Q: What are the reasons you think led to this state of affairs?
A: When this government was formed, I put all my efforts into making it a parliamentary government, as far as possible. Although the Muslim Brotherhood did not join, I thought I had the consent of all the other blocs in parliament. But some of the blocs deny they had made any contribution to the formation of the government. The fact is that all the blocs were consulted. Deputies were chosen to become ministers according to that formula. Some blocs said the formula was not in accordance with the agreement. Some tension and protestation arose during the confidence session. However, the government got the vote of confidence. New elements were added. The political situation in the region was one.

Another was my own evaluation of the government. And yet another was the formation of new blocs. This led to a regrettable clash between the executive and legislative branches. This also resulted in deputies signing a paper (calling on the government to resign). Since we are passing through exceptional circumstances the two sides are required to learn from past lessons and from past circumstances and to try and find a formula (for co-existence). Not only should they learn from the experience of this government but of past governments as well. In the past the executive branch had hegemony over the legislative. That led to an outcry. Now, the legislative must not dominate the executive nor should it go beyond its limits as outlined in the constitution. There should be a formula. That, to a great extent, is laid down in the constitution and in tradition and past experience. That formula allows

every branch to perform its own duties. We are not the only country in the world that bases its powers on this. All democracies learnt their lessons through trial and error. Through that they reached to a formula. I do not know if we are going into that direction. The coming days and weeks will show the extent of our understanding of the nature of the relationship (between the legislative and the executive). They will provide us with the formula that will allow co-existence between the two.

Withdrawing confidence from a government is both democratic and constitutional. But the reasons for that should be real not temporal. This will find out before House's next session.

Jordan, in my opinion, is passing through a transitional period. It is true that we are living in a democratic atmosphere, but democracy is new to us. It is true that we have institutions, but these institutions did not assume their role so far. This government is entrusted to bridge the gap between the past and the present. That is why we are facing difficulties. We did not leave the past and we are not the sons of the future. We are still in the middle; our thinking is not clear. The government is suffering from all these accumulations: We want to move society from old frames, through democracy, openness and parliament, into the future. A future that has traditions and concepts of constitution, powers political parties, and freedom. All these are concepts that, regrettably, so far are not clearly defined. Each person interprets these concepts as he/she sees fit. In this transitional period we are passing through, this government is ready to bear all these interpretations. But we have to move on. I think the coming legislations on political parties, the press and others will help us transit this period into the future.

Palestinians welcome direct talks

(Continued from page 1)

worded statement describing Palestinian delegates as "traitors". Although most Palestinians doubt the intentions of Israel's most right-wing government ever, many are convinced the talks will gain a momentum of their own and eventually force the Jewish state into territorial concessions.

"Despite all the intransigence in the Israeli position they entered talks knowing the peace conference would focus on U.N. Resolution 242 and the principle of land for peace," Mr. Kidrah said. "Since they knew that, their intransigence will fade away with the start of bilateral talks."

Bush: Hope brighter after Madrid

(Continued from page 1)

bodes well for the future," said Mr. Baker, who made eight trips to the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war to organise a peace conference.

Asked what Mr. Bush meant by his comment that "interruptions will probably occur," in the process, Mr. Fitzwater said the president was just cautioning against over-optimism. "They want to be prepared for any occurrence and not be overly optimistic. Everybody wants to be realistic in terms of the process and prospects, but also to make sure people don't get discouraged if something like that does happen," he said.

Before his departure from Madrid, Mr. Baker said that the Mideast conference marked a "good beginning" to ending regional conflict, and promised the United States would continue to mediate.

But he said at a news conference that Israelis and Arabs had not yet reached an agreement on

where to hold the bilateral talks, the crucial next phase of the process.

Speaking about the site and timing of future meetings, he said: "This is an open question."

Mr. Baker added that U.S. and Soviet officials would continue to "make proposals as necessary." He said he would be available for talks with the delegates while travelling over the next few weeks.

"We intend to stay fully engaged, as fully engaged as we can and for as long as we think the parties are serious about peace. And for the moment I think they are serious."

"I am especially pleased with the quality of the first negotiating session between the Israelis and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," Mr. Baker said. (See expanded comments on page 2).

He said he hoped the Israeli-Palestinian talks would lead to limited self-rule for the Palestinians "within a year."

"The Madrid conference was a beginning," he said. "I think it was a good beginning."

Jordan rejects Israeli contention

(Continued from page 1)

three weeks. Both of the talks will go on."

"The success of the bilateral talks might have a positive influence on the multilaterals and vice-versa, but it is better to leave discussing the issue till the features of the coming stage become clearer," he added.

Marwan Muasher, spokesman for the Jordanian negotiators, said there was no agreement yet on the venue for the next round of bilateral talks, which, he added, will start in the next 10 days.

Dr. Muasher, head of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington who was specially assigned as the Kingdom's spokesman at the peace conference, told Radio Jordan in an interview from Madrid that during Sunday's meeting "the two sides exchanged views and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation opposed continuing the negotiations in the Middle East as Israel wants."

Israel has been insisting that the talks rotate between the concerned Arab country and the Jewish state in an obvious bid to reaffirm what it sees as an additional legitimacy. The Arabs rejected the demand and said anywhere in Europe or elsewhere but not the Middle East was acceptable to them.

Dr. Muasher said that during Sunday's talks, the issue of separating the joint delegation into Jordanian and Palestinian teams for separate bilateral talks with Israel on the Jordanian and Palestinian dimensions on the Arab-Israeli conflict was discussed but no agreement was reached.

"Even this issue was not agreed upon, but it will be discussed in the next round of talks," Dr. Muasher said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir appeared to take a view in this respect. He told Israel Radio Monday that his country would treat the joint delegation as one delegation and hold discussions as such. There was no immediate indication whether this would pose any hurdle in the next round of talks.

In his comments to the press Monday, Dr. Majali also reaffirmed Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Israeli demand for shifting the venue for talks to the Middle East.

"To start with, we understood that Madrid, if it is good for the general, then it is good for the bilateral," he said. "But the Israelis are refusing this, and we were saying this is the place. They tried to give the Middle East as a venue. There are lots of difficulties about having it in the Middle East for no reason."

"We are here to negotiate about peace, about normalisation, about land, about recognition of the Palestinians rights and so on. We just cannot jump to the end of whatever is going to come out of the negotiations and start with it and then go back to the first. So let the first be first and the last be last."

Haider Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian team in the joint delegation, told Jordan Television that the main priority for the Palestinians was to get an agreement on the stage of self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied territories as a prelude to independence.

"We do not want to leave the impression that we accept self-rule as an end by itself," he said. "We will be discussing the issue of stopping the settlements (in

the occupied territories) as an indicator and evidence that the self-rule period will be a transition to national independence."

In Bonn, the Jordanian ambassador to Germany, Khalid Madadha, said Israel should prove its seriousness and willingness for peace by halting settlements activities.

"We are hoping that Europe will play an important role in the peace process" but Israel is obstructing Europe from playing such a role, Mr. Madadha told a press conference addressed by his counterparts from all other Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace conference.

Jordan and the Arab states are willing to have peace with Israel, Mr. Madadha said, adding a call on Israel to implement United Nations resolutions on the Middle East problem and accept the principle of land for peace.

Following is the full text of a statement Dr. Majali read out at his press conference in Madrid Monday:

"I would like to welcome you to this press conference. I would like to say that we are satisfied with the events of the last week and hope that they constitute the beginning of the road towards a comprehensive and just peace based on United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

"We are gratified that the Palestinian identity has finally re-


ceived the recognition it deserves. This is in line with our longstanding commitment to supporting the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for self-determination on their national and ancestral home in Palestine."

"This positive development will enable us to give due regard to the Jordanian agenda in the negotiations while at the same time fully supporting the Palestinian team and their own agenda. We also hope that this will lay to rest finally the Israeli assertion that Jordan is Palestine."

"I would like to respond to the exotic interpretation of 242 which we have heard yesterday."

"The only legal interpretation of 242 is that it applies to all the territories occupied, not one part of it. I need not remind you of the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war embedded in Resolution 242, but selectively omitted by the Israeli spokesman. All drafters of 242 have agreed that it applies to all fronts and not only to the Egyptian front as he claimed."

"Successful Israeli governments have not disputed the applicability of 242 to all fronts. The essence of the problem is the question of Palestine and not only the Egyptian Sinai, which was occupied as a result of the Palestinian problem. The 'secure borders' in 242 apply to all countries in the region, not only Israel. Events have shown that it is the Arab that are in need of security and security does not come from territorial acquisition."



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Kasparov assured of winning in Tilburg

TILBURG, Netherlands (AP)—World champion chess player Gary Kasparov of the Soviet Union assured himself the title of the 15th annual Interpolis Chess Tournament Sunday without touching a piece or even showing up in the arena.

The decisive victory, which nets the world champion \$12,500 of the \$55,000 total prize fund in this strongest tournament ever held, was not his own doing but that of Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand.

Ironically, Anand gave Kasparov a helping hand not by winning but by losing.

With only Monday's final round to go, Anand, known as Vishy, was lagging 1.5 points behind the world champion in the tournament standings. But he had a favourable ending in his adjourned game with black from last week's 11th round match against U.S. champion Gata Kamsky and felt sure he would narrow the gap to half a point in Sunday's completion.

Before resumption, Kamsky offered to call the game a draw, but Anand turned down the offer because even though he was an exchange down, he had passed pawns on either wing well on their way to promotion on the first rank.

About 25 moves into the resumption, Anand had made little headway but still felt secure enough to refuse a second peace bid. He soldiered on hoping for a position where he could force a pawn breakthrough.

When at last he thought the moment had arrived, his pawn push at the 98th proved a blunder that left him with no more than an equal position, and by adding another error one move later he lost the game.

Suddenly, the black king was trapped in a mating net. Speechless, Anand surrendered on his 101st.

In Monday's 14th and final round, Kasparov is pitted with white against his arch-enemy and fellow Soviet grandmaster Anatoly Karpov.



Gary Kasparov

However, Kasparov is 1½ points clear of the field and will win the tournament even if he loses to the former world champion.

Robson quits international soccer

LONDON (R)—Bryan Robson, Manchester United's former England captain, quit international football Monday.

Robson, who played for his country in three world cups, announced his decision after he was omitted from England's squad for a vital European Championship qualifier against Poland in Poznan on Nov. 13.

England manager Graham Taylor explained that Robson was ready to quit after he gained

his 90th cap in the disappointing 1-0 win over Turkey last month but was persuaded by United manager Alex Ferguson to wait and see if he was selected for the Poland trip.

"If I had selected Bryan for Poland he would have delayed his retirement but he's 34 and together with Alex has come to realise it is getting more difficult for him to play every three days," Taylor said.

Added Taylor: "Bryan has been as good as anyone in recent games but he measures himself as being better."

"I have tremendous admiration for all he has done for England over the past decade but things don't go on for ever."

Robson first stepped on to the England stage against Ireland in February 1980.

He was dubbed "captain marvel" for his inspirational midfield

performances by former England manager Bobby Robson and would easily have passed the 100-cap mark but for a series of serious injuries.

Ferguson welcomed the retirement of his club captain from the international arena.

"Bryan has done more than his share for England and everyone knows this," he said. "He has been a wonderful ambassador for club and country. I think he's made the right decision."

Sampdoria faces possible exit

By Reuters

ITALIAN champions Sampdoria, struggling in the shadow of AC Milan's great achievements before them, face possible elimination from the European Cup before even reaching the new round robin stage.

Sampdoria, who sank to sixth from bottom in the league after a 2-1 defeat at Napoli Sunday, must come back from a 2-1 first leg deficit against Honved Budapest in their second round tie in Genoa Wednesday.

In contrast to Sampdoria, Italy's illustrious trio of absentees from European competition this season, Milan, Juventus and Napoli occupy the top three spots in the league table.

"Milan get under way," ran a banner headline in the sports daily Gazzetta Dello Sport Monday after the 1989 and 1990 European Champions had crushed as Roma 4-1.

One point clear of Juventus and with a game in hand, Milan played perhaps their best soccer of the season against a Roma side without Brazilian defender Aldair, Italy midfielder Giuseppe Giannini and German striker Rudi Voeller.

The only sour note for Milan concerned Dutch striker Marco Van Basten, the apparent victim of a case of mistaken identity when he was sent off for allegedly hitting an opponent.

Television replays proved conclusively it was not Van Basten but team mate Aldo Serena who struck out at an opponent.

Roma should bounce back in their Cup Winners' Cup tie at home Wednesday when they take a 1-1 scoreline into the second leg of their second round tie with Finnish side Ilves.

Sampdoria would appear at this early stage in the season to already be out of the running for a second successive tie after losing four out of nine league games.

"As far as the title is concerned, Sampdoria have already missed the bus, they're too far off the pace," Napoli's Italian international midfielder Massimo Crippa said.

Crippa should know. Napoli, defending their 1990 title, had slipped out of realistic contention by this stage a year ago.

French champions and league leaders Marseille prepared for their European Cup visit to Sparta Prague Tuesday with a

crushing 4-0 victory over bottom-of-table Nancy Friday.

"The victory against Nancy was ideal for our preparation, especially as our three strikers showed they were in form," said Belgian coach Raymond Goethals, standing in for Yugoslav Tomislav Ivic who has taken a two-week break.

England's Chris Waddle and Trevor Steven, Ghana's Abedi Pele and France's ace marksman Jean-Pierre Papin all scored for Marseille, who are 3-2 up on the Czechoslovak champions but will gear two away goals could stand Sparta in good stead.

Spanish champions Barcelona have a 2-0 cushion going into the second leg of their European Cup tie at Kaiserslautern in Germany, but they are struggling to find form in the league and were lucky to escape with a 2-2 draw away to Logrones Sunday.

Injury to defender Alberto Ferrer added to Johan Cruyff's selection problems. Cruyff already had Basque striker Juan Goikoetxea and full back Juan Carlos on the injured list, while international midfielder Guillermo Amor has one more game of a five-match suspension from

European competition to serve.

Atletico Madrid, 3-0 winners at home to Manchester United in the first leg of their second round Cup Winners' Cup tie, have gone off the boil in the league but are still in second place after a 1-0 weekend victory over Osasuna.

Apart from a doubt about midfielder Juan Vizcaino, coach Luis Aragones should be able to field a full strength side for the second leg in Manchester.

The Cup Winners' Cup holders emerged from a lean spell during which they fell from the top of the English first division as well as losing in Madrid by reclaiming top spot with a fighting 2-0 home win over Sheffield United Saturday.

Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven are determined to win a tough European Cup clash with Anderlecht in Brussels and reach the third round. The first leg ended in a goalless draw.

PSV manager Kees Ploegsma calculated that if PSV reached the round-robin stage, when the remaining eight clubs play in two pools, the club's coffers would be boosted by around five million guilders (\$2.7 million).

Garcia, McColgan win New York Marathon

NEW YORK (R)—Liz McColgan backed up a bold prediction — and took away \$45,000 and a Mercedes-Benz car — by winning the New York City Marathon Sunday.

McColgan, women's world champion over 10,000 metres, predicted victory during the build-up for the marathon despite having never before run the distance competitively.

"I had enough confidence to know I could beat any of the girls in the field," a smiling McColgan said after her triumph. "Next time I'll be a little better prepared and go for a better time."

McColgan's time of two hours 27 minutes, 23 seconds was good enough to bring a \$25,000 bonus as she finished a comfortable 55 seconds ahead of runner-up Olga Markova of the Soviet Union. Lisa Ondieki of Australia was third in 2:28.53.

Salvador Garcia won the men's race in 2:09.28 to beat compatriot Andres Espinoza by 32 seconds. Garcia's time brought him a bonus of \$35,000 in addition to the \$20,000 prize for first place.

Neither McColgan, nor her competitors, knew what to expect as the race took the Scot into uncharted distance. But the Florida-based champion got stronger and increased her lead in the final stages of the race.

"I found the course easier than I thought," said the 27-year-old McColgan, who ran with her hair piled straight up in a thick pony tail. "It was very hard running to hold myself back, to contain myself."

The Scot said she has a chance to eventually break the women's marathon mark of 2:21.06 set by Norway's Ingrid Kristiansen in the 1985 London Marathon.

"Today was about winning, not about times," McColgan said. "Now that I've done one, I look forward to doing it again."

"It was a good time for my debut but I know I can run a lot faster."

Speed seemed to be very much on McColgan's mind after the race.

Upon being presented with her brand new Mercedes, she said: "Thank you very much. I'm sure we'll drive fast in it."

Agassi will not play in the Grand Slam Cup

LONDON (R)—Andre Agassi, the flamboyant American at the centre of a row over the inaugural Grand Slam Cup last year, has turned down an invitation to play in this year's event, organisers said Monday.

But the 1991 cup, to be played in Munich next month with a prize of \$6 million, has attracted a top field, including all the year's Grand Slam champions.

Boris Becker, Jim Courier, Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg will join the 16-man battle for the top prize of \$2 million dollars.

Ivan Lendl, runner-up to Becker in the Australian Open final, and veteran favourite Jimmy Connors will also appear.

Agassi, who lost this year's French Open final to Courier, provoked a row last year when he broke a contract by pulling out of the Grand Slam Cup at the last minute, saying it was not an important event.

He was later fined \$25,000. Several other players criticised the cup, saying its prize money was too large and it was an attempt by the Grand Slam chairmen and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to overshadow

the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) own year-ending tournament.

ITF spokesman Ian Barnes said organisers were disappointed that Agassi would not play next month.

"His agent said he still feels 'some negatives' about the event," Barnes said.

"I think it is disappointing for the fans not to see such an attractive player because there is no doubt that he is one of the charismatic players currently around but it is a very strong field even so."

Last year's winner, American Pete Sampras, qualified only as one of the two alternates this time, based on his Grand Slam performance over the year, and decided to give up his place to the next in line, Australian Todd Woodbridge.

"Sampras didn't want to come to Europe without the certainty that he would play," Barnes said. The field also includes Australian Open semifinalist Patrick McEnroe and his American compatriot David Wheaton, who reached the last four at Wimbledon.

Gough back in Scotland squad after argument

LONDON (R)—Richard Gough has been recalled to Scotland's squad for a European Championship qualifier against San Marino next week, just two months after a highly publicised row with international manager Andy Roxburgh.

Gough and Roxburgh were involved in a public argument at

Glasgow Airport in September as Scotland returned from their Group 2 qualifying clash with Switzerland in Bern.

The Glasgow Rangers captain had declared himself unfit to play just 24 hours before the 2-2 draw and Roxburgh was upset by the lateness of the influential defender's withdrawal.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The late evening finds you with many interesting ideas and a considerable amount of energy. Getting together with others can lead to a great deal of positive progress and success.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Joining with good friends and interesting acquaintances at the many interesting outlets that mean anything at all to you can bring best results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are more humanitarian than usual now and are able to see how you can be more a force in the world of outside activity and especially where social service is concerned.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can certainly join with newcomers in the things they like to do the most and find out the various factors that have made them a success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Listen to that prophetic hunch that is trying to give you the right slant how you can make better progress in your dealings with others.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think out what you would like to have that brings more accord with you and your partners and then get in touch with them and let them know what is in your mind.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is your time to make sure you are

the one who does understand how others would like you to help them with their concerns so do it their way now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) You can have a wonderful day as you carry out your duties in back of you early and arrange to meet those with whom you would like to join the recreation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is your time to show you know what is basic and what is fluff and if you concentrate upon new age methods aiding you to have more substance all well.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you are able to find the various activities that bring you in touch and in greater accord with those whom you can have more prosperity when you need in which could be approaching.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You need to update your property, your possessions, your income so you can have more prosperity when you need in which could be approaching.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take some time out to show you are socially minded and a great entertainer whether socially or where your own hangout, talents are concerned.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You need to withdraw a bit and look at the surrounding conditions to see just how you can best benefit through being preparing yourself for future outlook.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Our heat bill is up 20%! Where the heck is global warming when you need it?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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ENGRYT

GLABEN

A PRACTICAL JOKE IS THE ONE THAT'S PLAYED ON SOMEONE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surplus answers suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○

Yesterday's Jumbles: WAFER PUPIL TRIANT GLOOMY
Answer: Jewelry is the only thing that doesn't wear out --- WHEN YOU WEAR IT OUT

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

1 Bad bawler

5 Ethnic group

8 Essay

12 Melody

13 Eagle's weapon

14 Soft cheese

15 Notable couple

18 Summer drink

19 Woos

20 Masticates

21 Canasta card

22 Broadway angels

24 Christmas reindeer

27 Puts on cargo

28 Afr. plant

29 Prepared apples

30 Schedule letters

33 Notable couple

37 Henpeck

38 Nostrils

39 Lab burner

40 Early fur trader

41 Ceryll

43 Primitive baker

46 Hamletian man

47 Gear

48 Make money

49 Slimming salon

52 Notable couple

56 Thrill of yore

57 Venetian

58 OED word

59 Soak flux

60 Prohibitionists

61 Squirming

DOWN

1 Tibetan priest

3 MC's item

4 Scrooge word

5 Diner sign

6 Comeback

7 Woe is me!

8 Ramant

9 Overdone

10 Stair part

11 Time segments

13 Certain roof

14 Financial

16 Eng. river

17 Ebo

21 Afterward

22 Minuteman's

23 Yamen city

24 Daybreak

25 Inter

26 Ballad

27 Redoubt

28 Raccoon

30 Cathedral city

31 Walrus

32 Pre-med subj.

34 Certain

35 Information

36 Rigor native

40 Liturgical vestment

41 Well hanging

42 Terrible of song

43 Horatio

44 TLC giver

45 Give you anything

46 Weeds

48 Nervous

49 Father

50 Burst of noise

51 Ostentatious

53 Appand

54 Neither's

55 Bom

Appelmans wins 1st tennis title

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (R)—Third-seeded Sabine Appelmans of Belgium won 11 of the last 13 games Sunday to capture her first professional title with a 7-5 6-1 win over 15-year-old American Chanda Rubin in the \$150,000 Arizona Tennis Classic.

"I'm so happy, I knew it was my chance today," said Appelmans, whose \$27,000 winner's check was the biggest of her three-year career. The victory lifted Appelmans to a career-high 18th in the rankings.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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K 9

A J 6 4

A K 7 3

WEST

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7

Q 10 7 2

8 6 5

SOUTH

K J 6

A Q 10 6 4 3

8

Q J 9

The bidding:

North East South West

1 NT Pass 3 Pass

3 NT Pass 4 Pass

5 Pass

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Jordan Times
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 11/1/91	SINGAPORE CLOSE Date 11/1/91
Sterling Pound	1.7675	1.7648
Deutsche Mark	1.6445	1.6476
Swiss Franc	1.4435	1.4485
French Franc	5.6235	5.6298**
Japanese Yen	129.75	129.65
European Currency Unit	7.2445	7.2436**

*USD Per STG

**European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Microcurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.18
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.25	10.31	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.37	9.37	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.51	8.25	8.25	8.06
French Franc	8.99	9.18	9.24	9.24
Japanese Yen	6.15	6.09	5.87	5.59
European Currency Unit	9.56	9.81	9.87	9.87

Interest rate bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

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*21 Karat

Capital Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 4/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6840	0.6860
Sterling Pound	1.2072	1.2132
Deutsche Mark	0.4157	0.4178
Swiss Franc	0.4729	0.4753
French Franc	0.1222	0.1216
Japanese Yen	0.5262	0.5288
Dutch Guilder	0.3690	0.3708
Swedish Krona	0.1140	0.1146
Italian Lira	0.0554	0.0557
Belgian Franc	0.0984	0.0994

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.7950
Lebanese Lira	0.0772	0.0777
Saudi Riyal	0.1821	0.1831
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1855	0.1865
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	0.7510	0.7610
UAE Dirham	0.2455	0.1865
Greek Drachma	0.3508	0.3608
Cypriot Pound	1.4796	1.4900

Per 100

AS indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	2/11/91	Close	3/11/91	Close
AB-Share	124.57		124.51	
Banking Sector	105.11		105.19	
Insurance Sector	125.18		126.39	
Industry Sector	154.29		155.95	
Services Sector	132.51		132.15	

December 31, 1990 = 100

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

NIKKI — The market was closed for a national holiday. Trading resumed on Tuesday. On Friday the Nikkei average closed 5,04 points or 0.71 per cent down at 25,044.24.

DNEY — Scattered selling in the resources sector left the index weaker. The All Ordinaries Index closed 2.4 points down at 1,681.7.

HONG KONG — The market rose on the back of Friday's report cut in interest rates. The Hang Seng Index ended 45.22 pts up to close at 4,083.84.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed mixed in lacklustre trading ahead of Tuesday's holiday. The Straits Times Industrial Index closed 24 points higher at 1,418.76.

DUBAI — The market was closed for the Hindu festival of this holiday. Trading resumed on Thursday. The Bombay Exchange index closed 19.96 points higher at 1,909.80 on Friday.

Arms makers still see main markets in M.E.

DUBAI (R) — Arms merchants, unimpressed by the peace talks between Israel and its Arab foes, turned out in force in Dubai Sunday convinced the Middle East remains one of the last promising arms markets in the world.

The Dubai '91 airshow has attracted more than 400 defence firms, all eager to sell weapons to nations for whom the Gulf war was a graphic illustration of the need for self-defence.

"In our view all of the Gulf countries have come to the realisation that they have to increase their defence capabilities as a result of the war," said Aldo Massara, president of the Raytheon Middle East Company.

Raytheon, maker of Patriot anti-missile missiles which took out Iraqi Scud missiles over Saudi Arabia and Israel during the war, set up a new company in Dubai last month to boost sales to the region.

"Our belief is that they (Gulf states) will definitely devote more funds for their defence," Mr. Massara said.

"There are only two growth areas in the world — the Middle East and the Far East," said a European industry official who asked not to be named.

"Obviously the Middle East peace talks could change that, but my view is that the talks won't have much of an effect, certainly not in the short term," he pointed out.

Mr. Massara said that despite the talks countries in the region would still have to defend themselves. "The history of the Middle East is such that even with a successful peace conference people are going to have to defend themselves."

Industry officials at the conference, which opened Sunday, predict the peace talks will drag on for years, leaving the region's appetite for arms as strong as ever.

They say that despite the end of the cold war, which is cutting defence spending in Europe and the United States, the Middle East remains strategically important — it still holds over two-thirds of the world's crude oil reserves.

"The Middle East countries collectively possess the greatest raw material treasure in the world," said Wolfgang Deimich, director of research at UBS Securities Inc.

"In and of itself, that would appear to make all of the countries in the area vulnerable to the threat of aggressive force," he added.

Some of the region's wealthiest states make no secret of their wish to arm against future attack.

Saudi Arabia, which plans to double the size of its armed forces, said last week it wants to extend its Al Yamamah air defence project.

Arms industry executives expect major new deals over the next few years but several off-

icials said the United States was expected to win the lion's share of any big defence contracts, reflecting its dominant role in winning the Gulf war.

The new orders may not, however, be announced immediately.

"With the Middle East peace conference going on and with the concerns of the U.S. government about proceeding with major arms sales to the Middle East, there is going to be a period of deep analysis over who gets what," James Lewis, president of Raytheon's Saudi Arabian programme said.

The chairman of Thomson-CSF said that despite falling world arms spending, his company will stick to its core military businesses rather than diversify like many of its competitors.

"We do not believe in the sword to ploughshares theory," Thomson-CSF Chairman Alain Gomez told Reuters in an interview.

Paris-based Thomson-CSF would continue with its strategy of expanding its defence activities through selective acquisitions, joint ventures and cooperation agreements, he said.

Unlike rivals such as G.M. Hughes Electronics, which wants to cut its reliance on defence sales by expanding its civil activities, Thomson-CSF has no desire to diversify away from its military work through acquisitions.

"We do not believe that the transfer of activities from defence professional electronics to non-defence professional electronics is so easy to implement and we don't believe it's necessary," Mr. Gomez said.

"Neither are we believers in big diversification strategies, like if you put a few billion francs on the table and you buy ... an automotive electronics or telecommunications business," Mr. Gomez said, adding Thomson-CSF had considered and rejected both options.

"Right or wrong, we believe that we don't need that," he said. "We believe that by strictly capitalising on positions in our core businesses in defence we can fare well financially."

Mr. Gomez repeated earlier forecasts that Thomson-CSF, whose products include missile systems, fighter aircraft electronics and flight simulators, would report higher profits through 1993 despite the expected decline in world arms sales following the end of the cold war.

Thomson-CSF had net attributable profit of 2.18 billion francs (\$390 million) in 1990.

Mr. Gomez said Thomson-CSF's 1991 earnings could increase by around 5.6 per cent — its first-half net attributable income — but stressed that this was not a forecast or commitment.

Mr. Gomez said he saw overall defence spending declining in the next few years as the United States and European countries pared down their military budgets.

But he expected the fall in Western spending to bottom out near the middle of the decade and arms spending in the Middle East and the Far East to rise throughout the period, improving the outlook for the industry towards the end of the 1990s.

"Even if we don't succeed in compensating with increased market share for the shrinking overall market ... we will be in a position to see our profits ... regularly increase as of 1991 from efficiency improvements, cost cutting, restructuring," he pointed out.

Mr. Gomez said he was not averse to expanding the company's non-defence activities, but he added this would be pursued by exploiting technologies developed from its existing military work for civilian uses.

Mr. Gomez said that over the longer term, the firm would continue to pursue its strategy of making acquisitions or finding joint ventures and cooperation agreements to enhance its defence business.

"We will try to make the most of the market opportunities, wherever they lie, but we don't think that will be enough," he added.

"Therefore we also have a very definite ... policy of extending our base, which means participating in the quite huge restructuring ... in the Western world's defence industry," he noted.

He said further restructuring of Europe's defence industry, with increasing cross-border mergers and joint ventures, was desirable and probably inevitable because national markets could not support the necessary research and development spending.

New world order may put in order global debt disorder

WASHINGTON (AP) — Debt forgiveness is becoming part of the new world order as the fall of communism focuses the attention of major industrial governments on hard times in eastern Europe and the Third World.

In recent years, 14 creditor governments have forgiven more than \$30 billion owed them by nearly 150 countries, World Bank officials estimate.

"Step by step there are more and more precedents to write some of the debt off the books," said Ernest Freeg, former chief economist at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Eventually, even some of the Soviet Union's \$65 billion debt will have to be forgiven, said Mr. Freeg, now an economics analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a private think tank in Washington.

The United States, which has the most debt to forgive, has been among the slowest to come around.

Debt reductions by the United States and other lenders of more than \$10 billion each for Poland and Egypt increased pressure to write off debt of other countries with huge foreign obligations.

The creditors said these were special cases: Egypt was being rewarded for its help in the Gulf war, Poland for taking a bold lead in bringing eastern Europe out of the communist system.

Nonetheless, many countries poorer than Egypt or Poland consider themselves equally deserving.

Debtors still owe about \$300 billion to individual governments

and \$1 trillion to banks, other private lenders and international organisations.

In addition to the United States and Germany, countries that already have forgiven debt to one or more poorer nations include France, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Japan, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and Finland.

For the borrowers, debt forgiveness offers a partial solution to a financial headache that won't go away.

For the lenders, it offers a way of boosting other economies and opens the way to collecting at least small amounts from countries that, in some cases, haven't been paying anything.

At least temporarily, it seems to have eased pressure from Third World debt.

"Things are quiet now, but that debt bomb is still ticking out there," said Riordan Koett, director of Latin American studies at Johns Hopkins University.

He said a crisis could erupt if there were a new surge in the price of oil or interest rates or if a serious recession shrinks markets for the goods of debtor countries.

Britain has taken a leading role in the anti-debt crusade. Prime Minister John Major proposed last year that industrial giants write off \$17 billion in loans to 20 of the world's poorest countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. Major was pressing the proposal at a recent meeting of the so-called Paris Club, where the world's leading lenders gather. He has said Britain will go ahead with its own reductions if a

worldwide effort is not undertaken. Canada will join in, and so may Australia and some European countries.

But some nations, particularly the United States and Japan, are resisting.

The Bush administration, facing a budget deficit estimated at \$282 billion, is partly constrained by a new law that requires action by Congress when a debt writeoff reduces U.S. income.

U.S. officials say the American role in Mr. Major's proposal would be to forgive about two-thirds of what the 20 countries owe the United States for arms, food aid, development aid and loans for industrial equipment from the Export-Import Bank. The World Bank's top economist on debt, John Underwood, estimated the U.S. share at \$1.2 billion.

Japan has indicated it would go along only when all the others do.

The United States already has forgiven nearly \$1 billion of debt for the poorest countries. It has started to do more for countries in the western hemisphere, some of them rather more prosperous than those Mr. Major wants to help, under a programme called "Enterprise for the Americas."

The grandfather of all aid programmes — the U.S. Marshall plan for Western Europe after World War II — was largely grants. In the 1960s the United States turned to making loans instead. It came late to debt forgiveness, beginning in the 1980s.

Castro declares Cuba 'wide open' to foreign investment

HAVANA (R) — President Fidel Castro said Sunday that Cuba was opening wide its socialist economy to private foreign investors and would be a good partner in joint business deals.

"We're opening up very wide, as wide as is possible," the 65-year-old Cuban leader said as he inaugurated the ninth Havana International Trade Fair, attended by more than 700 firms from 24 nations.

Mr. Castro underlined the importance Cuba was allocating to foreign investment as part of an economic survival strategy drawn up by a congress of the ruling Communist Party in October.

The government was looking for foreign partners to provide capital, technology and markets for business ventures in many sectors of the Cuban economy, notably in tourism but also in bio-technology and manufacturing, he said.

Mr. Castro said the new investors would not be allowed to become "owners of our country," an apparent reference to the situation before the 1959 revolution when U.S. businessmen controlled large parts of the Cuban economy.

"We Cubans will be the owners of our own country," he said, adding: "But we will be the best possible partners in the search for common interests."

Cuban trade officials say the island has struck more than 50 deals on projects with foreign investors so far this year and is negotiating another 10 ventures.

Mr. Castro said the foreign investment drive did not contradict the socialist ideology espoused by his one-party communist government.

"Collaboration between the socialist system and the capitalist

system is perfectly compatible," he said.

The trade fair opened a week before an expected debate at the United Nations General Assembly on a 30-year-old U.S. trade embargo against Cuba, which Havana wants lifted.

Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas said Cuba's efforts to extend its international trade links made the U.S. embargo all the more "unreal, condemnable, absurd and criminal."

Mr. Castro said Cuba was in fact confronting a twin blockade, the U.S. embargo coupled with the collapse of communism in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, which was gradually blocking off what had been the source of 85 per cent of Cuba's trade.

Reflecting this realignment of Cuban trade, fewer Soviet companies were represented at this

year's fair, although one significant newcomer was the chamber of commerce at Lithuania, the newly independent Baltic state recognised by Havana.

Another listed new exhibitor was the trade ministry of Iraq. Cuba opposed the U.S.-led coalition that fought against Iraq in the Gulf war earlier this year.

Unlike past years, there were no firms representing Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Poland or Romania, all former communist allies of Cuba and former trading partners of the now-defunct Comecon.

Stressing what he called the "markedly Latin American character" of the fair, Mr. Cabrisas said 10 Latin American countries were represented out of the total 24 nations present.

The 1991 fair also featured the strongest Cuban participation ever of 110 companies, 45 more than last year.

Byelarus wants foreign investors

COLOGNE, Germany (R) — The breakaway Soviet republic of Byelarus wants to attract foreign investors by privatising land and property, its president has said.

Stanislau Shuskevich, whose country changed its name to Byelarus and declared independence in late August, said the republic planned a wide privatisation programme.

Byelarus was capable of repaying its share of the Soviet Union's foreign debt, Mr. Shuskevich was quoted as saying with-

out elaboration.

He emphasised the republic's economic capability, saying Byelarus had produced consumer goods in the past which had proved exportable. He assured German officials the republic would not use credits to buy food supplies.

The republic still suffered from effects of the 1986 disaster at Chernobyl, nuclear power station in the Ukraine and some people would need resettling from highly radioactive areas in the future, he said.

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Millions stay at home in 'biggest South African strike ever'

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Millions of black South Africans went on strike Monday in what labour unions called the biggest stoppage in the country's history and a massive vote of no confidence in the white government.

The two-day protest against the imposition of value added tax (VAT) was baptised in blood. An eve-of-strike battle between rival black factions on a gold mine killed 15 and wounded 43.

At least 19 other blacks died in sporadic outbreaks of township warfare across the country Sunday. It could not be determined if these deaths were linked to the labour unrest or were the result of continuing political fighting that has killed more than 3,000 in black townships in the past year.

Jay Naidoo, head of the umbrella Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), said three million workers had stayed at home to protest against VAT which many label an "apartheid tax." Protesters say it unfairly penalises poor blacks by raising the prices of basic foods.

"Initial information indicates this is the biggest strike ever in this country," Mr. Naidoo said. "It is clearly almost a referendum in which people have cast a

vote of no confidence in the government."

Mr. Naidoo said between 80 and 90 per cent of black workers in cities, towns and the countryside had obeyed the strike call by COSATU and its allies, principally Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

He said the white government of President F.W. de Klerk had been given a powerful message that it cannot restructure the economy without the consent of the mass black movements.

Although the strike was primarily over VAT, it was seen as a major trial of strength between the government and the ANC, the biggest black party, as they prepare for negotiations on a democratic constitution.

With the government running the economy and controlling the security forces, and with anti-apartheid sanctions crumbling and its armed struggle suspended, mass action is the ANC's most powerful lever.

The ANC and its labour allies want a real say in running the transition from 300 years of white supremacy.

Government, unions and the ANC had appealed for calm during the strike and police reported

no intimidation or violence directly linked to the stoppage Monday.

Reuter photographer Jada Ngunya saw four shot and hacked corpses in the townships of Vosloorus and Katlehong east of Johannesburg Monday, but the motives for their killing were not clear.

The deaths all occurred near migrant worker hostels, strongholds of the anti-strike Inkatha Freedom Party of Zulu leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi. But the hostels have been focal points for violence throughout the township wars and most were peaceful Monday.

Anglo-American Corporation reported 15 killed at its President Steyn Mine at Welkom, south of Johannesburg, when strikers apparently tried to prevent workers reporting for the night shift Sunday.

Mr. Naidoo said half the nation's gold miners had stopped work and that farm workers had joined a national stayaway from the first time.

Initial reports from across the country were of empty commuter trains of buses and businesses limping along, if at all, with skeleton white crews. The only



Erich Honecker Moscow to extradite Honecker by end of November

BERLIN (R) — Former East German Communist leader Erich Honecker will be extradited to Germany from the Soviet Union this month to face manslaughter charges, German Justice Minister Klaus Kinkel said.

"He'll be back by the end of November," the newspaper Berliner Kurier quoted Mr. Kinkel as saying in an interview published Monday. "By the end of November all misunderstandings and formalities will be cleared up."

Mr. Honecker, toppled in a 1989 anti-Communist revolution which led to German unification, fled to Moscow last March to avoid arrest on manslaughter charges arising from shoot-to-kill orders to guards at the Berlin Wall.

His refuge was jeopardised by the collapse of Soviet Communism rule after an abortive Kremlin coup in August. Soviet officials have since implied Honecker had been extradited once legal and other issues are clarified.

Mr. Kinkel said he had secured Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's approval to make another formal approach to Soviet and Russian republic leaders for Mr. Honecker's handover.

Klaus Bleck, Bonn's ambassador to Moscow, has been asked to determine whether jurisdiction over Mr. Honecker's fate had passed to Russian Justice Minister Nikolai Fyodorov from central Soviet authorities, which have splintered since the push.

Mr. Fyodorov was quoted by a German newspaper last week as saying Bonn should apply to him rather than the Kremlin for Honecker's extradition.

Mr. Kinkel said after a visit to Moscow last month that the Soviet Union showed understanding for Bonn's argument that Mr. Honecker should be returned. But he received no guarantees of cooperation.

Mr. Honecker, 79, East German leader from 1971 until his forced resignation in 1989, said in a television interview three weeks ago he was willing to return only if Berlin prosecutors dropped all charges against him.

The German mass-circulation newspaper Bild said Sunday that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had refused to take calls from him.

Bild, quoting usually reliable sources in Moscow, said Mr. Honecker was angered by Mr. Gorbachev's attitude and felt the reformist Kremlin chief had betrayed him.

Imelda Marcos returns to rapturous welcome

MANILA (R) — Imelda Marcos returned from exile Monday to a tumultuous welcome in the country she and here disgraced late husband are accused of plundering and told crowds outside her luxury hotel she would fight poverty.

"I inherited from Marcos his love for this nation. This nation can be great again..." the widow of ousted Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos told thousands of supporters.

"As long as there is one Filipino who is poor, Imelda's work will not be over," she told cheering wellwishers waving balloons and placards reading "we love you, Imelda" outside the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Mrs. Marcos has booked the imperial suite at a cost of \$2,000 a day. Hotel staff said her entourage had occupied all 60 rooms on the 11th floor overlooking Manila Bay.

Mrs. Marcos, forced into exile with her husband by a 1986 "people's power" revolt led by now-President Corason Aquino, said she had no political agenda.

"But I will give my heart as the mother of the nation. I am appealing on bended knees for us to be united."

Mrs. Marcos, 62, arrived from Hawaii by chartered Jumbo Jet to face charges that she helped steal \$5 billion from the impoverished nation during the Marcoses' 20 years in power.

Near-hysterical supporters chanted and let off firecrackers to welcome Mrs. Marcos, who says she has come home to clear the family name and arrange to bury her husband in the Philippines.

Outside the hotel, supporters created a fiesta atmosphere. Streamers read "Marcos again" and "Marcos for 1992," referring to a possible bid for re-election in May next year.

The air rang with the sound of drums, firecrackers and shouts of "Marcos pa rin" (Marcos forever).

"I came from America and they say if you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere. I am your example," she declared, jabbing her finger in the air. People wept and waved V for victory signs.

Hundreds packed into the hotel to catch a glimpse of her. Witnesses said a look of terror flitted across her face when they surged past a security cordon.

The thousands of followers created a huge traffic jam of vans, buses, bicycles and cars, forcing Mrs. Marcos to cancel a planned visit to a Roman Catholic Church to give thanks.

Vice-President Salvador Laurel, politically at odds with Mrs. Aquino, had earlier greeted Mrs. Marcos at the airport. Her son Ferdinand "Bongbong" Mar-



Rocard to divorce

PARIS (R) — Presidential hopeful Michel Rocard broke one France's longest-established political taboos Monday when he told a magazine interviewer he was about to divorce. In contrast to the United States, where politicians' careers have been boosted by press scrutiny of their private lives, there is tacit agreement between France's press and politicians to keep the subject under wraps.

"We are lucky not to be victims of the American press syndrome where the private lives of public figures are spread all over the front pages," Mr. Rocard told the weekly magazine Le Point. "I trust the French press not to go overboard about this (his impending divorce)," said Mr. Rocard, 61, said of the end of his marriage to his wife Michele. "The break-up of a couple is always a drama. But if you want to remain honest and have been married to a great lady as I was, a clear break is the most loyal of solutions." Michele Rocard was closely involved in her husband's career.

Master faker 'has fooled' the art world

LONDON (R) — A British artist claimed in a book published Monday to have sold more than 1,000 fake old masters and described some tricks of his trade ink made with iron filings for a Poussin and school crayons for a Hockney. One way or another, 57-year-old Eric Hebborn is a skilled boaster. His claims to have produced a fake work more than 30 years have sown giggling doubts in the art world about some of the works attributed to famous artists. He has the credentials for a master faker, having been trained at Britain's prestigious Royal Academy and elected to the Royal Society of British Artists in his own right. Mr. Hebborn lays claim to a huge body of work including 80 Augustus Johns, 37 Castiglione and drawings accepted as the work of Degas, Picasso and Braque. In his book, Drawn To Trouble — The Forging Of An Artist, he says it is easy with the right equipment to produce art which copies the style of the master painter so closely that art dealers think it is the real thing. But the experts are not convinced. The Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Copenhagen has refused to accept his claim to have produced a drawing accepted as the work of the Italian artist Piranesi. Police have not so far been called in and Mr. Hebborn says he does not expect to be prosecuted because the attributions were made by "experts," not himself.

Fierce fighting in Croatia casts shadow over peace talks

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav army and Croatian forces blasted each other with artillery and mortars across Croatia Monday in some of the fiercest battles of their four-month conflict.

In heavy fighting since Friday, at least 33 people have been killed and more than 10,000 refugees driven from their homes.

The clashes erupted despite the threat of European Community (EC) sanctions on any republic that does not accept an EC plan to transform Yugoslavia into a loose grouping of its six republics.

Serbia is the only one that has rejected the latest EC attempt to end the conflict prompted by Croatia's declaration of independence in June. Talks on the proposal are scheduled Tuesday in the Hague.

Tanjug News Agency said the Serb-led army and Serbian irregulars had landed on the Croatian bank of the Danube River Sunday and started "final operations" to seize the town of Vukovar after a siege of more than 10 weeks.

The commander of the vastly outnumbered Croatian militia defending Vukovar said the town could fall within hours unless they received urgent reinforcements.

"Vukovar is in a very difficult and serious situation," the commander, Milan Dedakovic, told a news conference by radio.

Croatian media said MiG-21 jet fighters fired on Vukovar hospital and other buildings. Air-raids sirens wailed in the capital, Zagreb, and in other towns in the centre of the rebel republic where battles raged.

A Reuters reporter saw artillery and mortar duels between Croatian forces and army units positioned on hills overlooking the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik.

The Gruz Harbour area came under fire. Croatian fighters launched mortar shells from just outside the walls of the city's old town.

Heavy fighting erupted in the northeastern city of Osijek, where six people were killed overnight, in Karlovac and Sisak in central Croatia and around Nova Gradiska on the Belgrade-

Baker: U.S. has 'real problems' with China

MADRID (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Sunday that he is going to visit China for talks this month because of "real problems" between Washington and Peking.

Mr. Baker told reporters he would be in China Nov. 15-17 on a visit to Asia that will also take him to Korea and Japan.

"China has almost one-fourth of all the people in the world," Mr. Baker said during a departure from the main theme in a news conference about the Middle East peace talks.

China "has nuclear weapons," he added. "It has great influence in the region. It has immense economic potential."

The Bush administration has come under sharp criticism from the U.S. Congress for failing to retaliate strongly against China's blatant suppression of pro-democracy forces in June 1989.

Following the crackdown, Washington imposed a ban on high-level contacts with China, which remains in effect. But both U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft have gone to China since then, calling the trips visits rather than contacts.

Critics of China in the United States are also disturbed by China's reported sales of ballistic missiles to the Middle East and by a growing trade surplus with the United States.

There are other problems in the trade relationship, including reports that China uses prison labour to make cheap exports.

"We have some real problems, and we can't expect to make headway with these problems unless we discuss them," said Mr. Baker. "Ignoring them will not make the problems go away."

Militants kill Communist politician in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh militants killed a Communist politician and his five bodyguards in an ambush near the city of Jalandhar in the north Indian state of Punjab Monday, domestic news agencies reported.

They said Sarwan Singh Cheema, a former member of the state legislature, was killed when his car was riddled with bullets in the ambush. The attackers escaped by car.

Mr. Cheema and his bodyguards were among at least 21 people killed in Punjab since Sunday night in the Sikh militant campaign for an independent homeland they call Khalistan, or land of the pure.

Communists are frequently targeted by the militants because they believe in a united India and frequently speak out against independence.

Among the other dead were nine militants killed in encounters with security forces, the agencies said.

Police have reported nearly 5,000 deaths this year in the campaign. This compares with 3,800 last year, which was double the number of deaths in 1989.

Army troops, fanning out by the thousands to search for Sikh secessionists, exchanged heavy fire early Monday with militants in one of their main hideout villages, sources said.

Little official word has emerged since the army launched Operation Night Thunder at 7 p.m. (1330 GMT) Sunday, but a senior police official said 11,000 to 12,000 troops were searching for the militants in the Tarn Taran district of Punjab state.

Boat people transferred to defuse tensions in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — A week after agreeing on a plan to return Vietnamese refugees, British officials Monday began moving 1,000 residents of the largest refugee camp in an effort to defuse rising tensions.

More than 1,500 residents of the Whitehead Camp demonstrated against the Oct. 29 agreement signed by Vietnamese and British officials to return the refugees, by force if necessary, to their impoverished homeland.

More than 600 officers mounted a massive effort to move Vietnamese out of one section of the Whitehead Camp and into either the High Island Camp or another section of Whitehead. The camp is home to more than 25,000 Vietnamese.

No further details were immediately available as to whether force was used to move the Vietnamese or how long the operation would take.

A government statement said that the operation was "designed for more harmonious living conditions."

Section 3 has been the scene of several violent incidents in the last week. Whitehead is considered the most dangerous of Hong Kong's 12 camps.

On Saturday, more than 400 Vietnamese hurled stones and punches at each other in a one-hour brawl. Security officers quelled the Vietnamese after firing dozens of tear gas canisters.

On Friday night, eight people were injured in a melee involving 300 Vietnamese.

And on Thursday, a Vietnamese man was hacked to death by three fellow camp residents. Police are investigating why he was attacked.

Soviet general urges Korean weapons cuts, U.S. pullout

SEOUL (AP) — The first Soviet general to visit South Korea proposed Monday that it make major arms cuts along with rival North Korea, and said U.S. troops should withdraw from the South to speed reconciliation.

The Soviet Union is the only major power that has diplomatic ties to both the totalitarian, Communist North and pro-Western South Korea, and is sometimes seen as a pivotal player in easing tensions on the divided Korean peninsula.

The peninsula was partitioned in 1945. The two Koreas fought a war in 1950-53, and never signed a peace treaty. Some 1.5 million troops guard either side of their tightly sealed border, the last front in the cold war.

"Neither the USSR nor the USA are interested in the aggravation of the situation in Korea," said General Viktor Novozhilov, commander of the

Philippines to discuss Burma's return to constitutional rule

BANGKOK (AP) — The Philippine foreign secretary said Monday he will visit Burma at the end of November to discuss how the country's military rulers can return it to constitutional government.

Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus said he had wanted to go to Rangoon after attending a regional security conference that began Monday in Bangkok, but the trip had to be delayed.

The Burmese "do not seem ready to receive me yet," he said, adding they apparently were preparing for visits by other foreign ministers.

Military commanders seized power in Burma in September 1988, and soldiers killed hundreds if not thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators.

The regime of Gen. Saw Maung has refused to relinquish power to the parties that trounced the military in 1990 elections. Instead, it has arrested dissidents and committed widespread human rights abuses including torturing and executing detainees, according to Amnesty International and many other sources.

Mr. Manglapus had applied to visit Burma as an emissary of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). That group has rejected Western requests to pressure the Burmese to halt human rights abuses, but decided in July to send Mr. Manglapus to Rangoon to discuss human rights questions.

However, Mr. Manglapus said Burmese authorities would accept him only as a representative of the Philippines.

ASEAN is an anti-Communist trade and security group that includes the Philippines with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

In a conversation with the Associated Press Monday, Mr. Manglapus would not respond directly when asked if the purpose of his trip was to talk about human rights.

"Our interest is to establish closer communication lines with that country in order to cooperate with it in all its efforts, including a return to constitutional government," he said.

"It cannot be denied that the situation there has attracted a lot of attention abroad, including the United Nations. Certainly we are eager to see whether there is some room for cooperation with the Myanmar (Burmese) government in its moves towards democratisation," he added.

Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin Monday repeated his government's stand that isolating Burma would not resolve the problem.

Thailand is trying to tell Burma as a friend that "they'd better be aware that the world is against them," Mr. Asa said.

The plight of Burmese dissidents was highlighted during the weekend with rumours in Bangkok that pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, was critically ill under house arrest in Rangoon.

Diplomats and other sources said they had no evidence to support the rumour, which came from a little-known rebel group in Burma. On Sunday, a Foreign Ministry official in Rangoon dismissed it as a fabrication by Western media.

Thailand's ambassador to Burma, Surapong Posayanond, said Monday that no diplomats or other independent observers had seen Mrs. Suu Kyi for quite some time.

When the latest rumour surfaced, officials of the Defence Service Intelligence told diplomats that Mrs. Suu Kyi was well, Surapong said in an interview at the Bangkok Security Conference.

"But we have no way, one way or the other, to confirm that she is well," he said.

Diplomats in Rangoon have said they cannot confirm a statement last week from the Nobel

Strongman in southern Russia defies Yeltsin

GROZNY, USSR (AP) — The ruler of a small Muslim enclave in southern Russia is stepping up his war of words with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and mobilising armed volunteers to fight for independence.

Former Soviet Air Force Gen. Dzhokar Dudayev became the president of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic in a disputed election last week, and says he will disobey Mr. Yeltsin's call to hold legislative elections or a referendum in the region on Nov. 17.

"We will hold a referendum, but not on Yeltsin's schedule," Gen. Dudayev said in an interview with the Associated Press last week in the autonomous republic's capital, Grozny.

Awards Committee in Norway that Mrs. Suu Kyi, 46, has been on a hunger strike to protest conditions of her arrest. She has been under house arrest since July 1989.

Meanwhile, the son of the detained Burmese opposition leader said in an interview published Monday he did not believe reports his mother was seriously ill on hunger strike.

"I don't believe them," Alexander Aris, 18, told the Norwegian daily Verdens Gang. "The rumours are not confirmed by a reliable source."

Mrs. Suu Kyi's husband is a British academic, Michael Aris.

The Burmese government said last Friday that Mrs. Suu Kyi was critically ill after starting a fast on Oct. 25 when she was refused permission to see a United Nations human rights investigator.

Alexander Aris said during a visit to the western Norwegian city of Bergen: "My mother is strong and will manage her house arrest."

He said he had not seen his mother since 1989, and had had no letters since last year.

The Norwegian Nobel Institute said Friday that Mrs. Suu Kyi had learned of her prize — a gold medal, a diploma and a cheque for about a million — and was "delighted at the news."

Orphaned bear heads for new home

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — An orphaned bear cub that wandered into a hospital emergency room and charmed the staff is headed for a new home. The cub, nicknamed Bartlett by the staff at Bartlett Memorial Hospital, will be flown to Bear Country USA, a drive-through wild animal park near Rapid City. The undernourished, 20-pound (9-kilogram) black bear cub pushed open the emergency room door and lumbered inside Oct. 19 to the astonishment of patients and the staff. A state biologist tranquillised the bear and cared for the animal at home. The hospital adopted the cub as a mascot for children, and an artist will draw a cartoon about the bear's visit for use in cheering up young patients. "Our people see so much unhappiness in the normal course of taking care of people, something like this catches your eye," said hospital spokesman Anne Schultz.

Kenyan casanova fined a bull, a ram and two goats

NAIROBI (R) — A man in a remote Kenyan village was ordered to hand over a bull, a ram and two he-goats in compensation for making love to all the women in his father-in-law's household, the daily Nation reported. The newspaper said the outraged father-in-law urged that the "young casanova" be castrated but a tribunal of clan elders in the eastern village of Numbura rejected the demand. Instead, the unnamed lover had to pay over a bull for making love to his mother-in-law, a ram for deflowering each of his father-in-law's two unmarried daughters.

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